FBIS DAILY REPORT

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HUMAN RIGHTS SUPPORTERS ARRESTED, STILL IN CUSTODY

PY021338 Paris AFP in Spanish 1510 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Mar (AFP)--Sources close to the arrested persons disclosed that six of the nine people involved with organizations for the defense of human rights who were arrested here during the past 48 hours today remain under arrest.

The sources disclosed that the persons arrested are being held on the premises of the Federal Security Superintendency (political police).

During operations carried out on Friday and Saturday, nine persons--and not five as had been initially stated--were arrested in private houses and at the office of the Law and Social Studies Center (CELS). Three of the persons arrested were released last night and three are being questioned. Since the police denied their participation in yesterday's event, it was believed it was a case of kidnapping.

The following is the list of persons arrested: Argentine physicist Jose Westerkamp; former Secretary of State for Education Emilio Mignone; politician Boris Pasik, member of the National Board of the Socialist Confederation of Argentina (CSA); Augusto Comte McDonnell, copresident of the Human Rights' Permanent Assembly; Carmen Lapaco; Marcelo Parili; socialist leader Reynaldo Saccone; Gabriela Iribarne; a Canadian who has acquired Argentine citizenship; and a typist of the CELS, whose name was not revealed.

The sources disclosed that all the persons arrested were held incommunicado and were subject to interrogation yesterday, after which Saccone, Gabriela Iribarne and the typist were released.

Relatives of the persons arrested said that a group of lawyers had submitted a writ of habeas corpus to the court. Several embassies, including the U.S. Embassy, got in contact with the relatives of the persons arrested as soon as the news of the arrests got around. Several organizations, among them the Peace and Justice Service in Latin America led by Adolfo Perez Esquivel--Nobel Peace Prize winner for 1980--expressed their support for the relatives of the persons arrested.

The Popular Christian Party (PPC) today demanded from Interior Minister Gen Albano Harguindeguy the immediate release of those arrested, almost all of whom are directly involved with organizations for the defense of human rights.

Arrest of Activists Criticized

PY030103 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 3 Mar 81 p 6

[Editorial: "A Step Back"]

[Text] Anyone seeking to do damage to the military regime's reputation both in the outside world and in Argentina itself could hardly do better that advise it to arrest, in the dead of night, some of the leading members of the country's tiny but very significant human rights movement. But this, inspired by motives that so far remain obscure, is precisely what it has gone and done. Compounding the damage was the lack of any immediate public explanation of this extraordinary and retrograde step, which will inevitably be taken as evidence that the much-commented progress towards legality perceived in the last year and a half has been illusory. This judgement, of course, would be unfair although, in the circumstances, understandable. The arrest of Emilio Mignone, Jose Westerkamp, Augusto Comte MacDonnell, Boris Pasik, Carmen Lapaco and Marcelo Parili was not concealed and the police did their thankless task correctly, even bringing in a person chosen at random to witness the search of Comte MacDonnell's apartment.

Some progress there has been if one contrast the weekend's episodes with the sort of thing that happened daily in the first 3 and 1/2 years of the "process". The arrests, however, make it clear that there is still a long way to go before normality is reached.

The regime likes to equate itself with Argentina as such and considers any criticism of its behaviour as an attack on the country as a whole. This proposition, needless to say, is completely ludicrous. There is far more to Argentina than a military dictatorship and the country's "image" depends on a large number of factors, the people who happen to be holding power being only one of them. And there can be little doubt that the small number of individuals who have refused to abandon principle either in the interests of personal safety or in order to win the approval of the authorities have given the national "image" much of the lustre that it still, despite everything, possesses.

The human rights movement represents in considerable measure, much of what is best in Argentina today. It has, in a period of horrifying violence, protected the flame of Western civilization from the men who would put it out. As the names of those--among them Ernesto Sabato and Jorge Luis Broges--who have become identified with what this movement is seeking to defend make clear, it represents however imperfectly the Argentina of intelligence against the Argentina of brute force; the Argentina of respect for the law against the Argentina of expediency; the Argentina of civic courage against the Argentina of silence; the Argentina of compassion against the Argentina of indifference; the Argentina of authenticity against the Argentina of cynism; the Argentina of ethical standards against the Argentina of none. The handful of brave men and women who have remained true to the fundamental values of the Western heritage are living proof that there is more, much more, to Argentina than dictatorship, bombastic rhetoric, a contempt for human life and liberty, and an obsequious willingness to accept any glib rationalization of abuses of power. They stand for the ideals on which the country's future must be built if it is ever to become a leading member of the Western community. The fact that these are the kind of people who suffer persecution is comment enough on the state of Argentina today.

AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON GRAIN SALES TO SOVIET UNION

PY021902 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2214 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Feb (NA)--Leopoldo Bravo, Argentine ambassador to the Soviet Union and president of the San Juan Bloc Party, today praised the national government's foreign policy, which he called "realistic and totally independent." Bravo made these statements to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS at Ezeiza Airport this afternoon when he was about to board the plane that will take him to West Europe from where he will continue to Moscow tomorrow to resume his tasks after a long stay in Argentina.

The former San Juan governor and former national senator said that in the Soviet capital he will meet David Lacroze, representative of the National Grain Board, who went to Moscow last Thursday to close some grain sale deals.

In answer to a question regarding current sales of Argentine wheat to the Soviet Union, he rejected the belief that they were just occasional and stressed that signed agreements say that the latter country will purchase 22.5 million tons over the next 5 years. The official--who was formerly ambassador to Moscow during the government of the so-called "Argentine revolution" and embassy secretary during the first Peronist government--said that this means that Argentina will sell an average of 4.5 million tons of grains per year. He hinted that the volume may be increased now through the negotiations he is pursuing together with David Lacroze and rejected the objections against those sales, made by a U.S. envoy a few days ago.

When asked about the position taken by Vernon Walters, envoy from the U.S. secretary of state, he pointed out that the United States itself has continued delivering wheat to the Soviet Union according to established contract terms. He asserted that the United States delivered 8 million tons of grains to the Soviet Union in 1980 despite the grain embargo, but he admitted that this figure may [illegible] 20 or 22 million tons in normal times.

He then referred to Argentine trade with the Soviet Union which he termed "very important" and he recalled that it had been initiated "32 years ago when diplomatic relations were established" at a time when his father became the first Argentine ambassador to that country. He said that the trade has grown progressively and that "in the last few years it has reached a really high level because of the circumstances we all know about," remarking that in bilateral trade Argentina has a surplus of $2.5 billion.

Bravo stated that this situation makes the Argentine producers happy who know that "they have a sure sale" on that market, which has great possibilities of acquiring considerably larger quantities.

"We are strictly fulfilling signed agreements, but our harvest has been good and it is possible that our deliveries will increase," he stated with regard to the trip of the National Grain Board chairman who is now in the Soviet Union.

In conclusion, the presence in Argentina of Soviet experts, such as those related to the Middle Parana River project, was discussed. Bravo considered this to be an advantageous situation which has been more "profitable" than expected. He pointed out that there is no reason for concern at the presence of these experts, because their tasks "do not in any way go beyond the limits set in the signed agreement," that is, their work is concentrated exclusively on their special field.

PRESIDENT INAUGURATES NEW CONGRESSIONAL SESSION

PY021344 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1000 GMT 2 Mar 81

[Excerpts] At the beginning of a new legislative period President Figueiredo addressed a 138-page message to congress in which he emphasized the need for an understanding between the different parties for the consolidation of the political opening. In addition to political issues, Figueiredo in his speech analyzed the economic situation, the government's role in the social sector, and he talked about foreign and domestic policy.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES PRESIDENT'S ELECTION ANALYZED

PY030034 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 27 Feb 81 p 2

["Castello's Column" by Carlos Castello Branco: "The February 'Package'"]

[Text] Invoking the political liberalization process and exerting itself to save that process from sincere but radical groups of whom former President Geisel used to speak, the government has won another round. And the government proved itself capable of winning without the exceptional rules it used to have at its disposal and through which it could cancel electoral mandates and issue 'packages' of self-serving legislation such as the Geisel "April package." The mobilization was launched by the civilian household, the chief of this household and Heitor de Aquino Ferreira, who managed to avoid another possible defeat. Aquino Ferreira knows that he will lose some day, but he might be taking comfort from the fact that it wasn't this time. The normal mechanisms of governmental pressure were sufficient for his purpose.

One of the factors which may have helped Aquino Ferreira was perhaps the final offensive he launched to present the candidacy of Deputy Djalma Marinho and his possible victory as a defiance of the armed forces which could then retaliate by halting the liberalization process or even by gagging the country as in 1968, according to a version told by Deputy Cantidio Sampaio, leader of the government in the Chamber of Deputies. Previous attempts to intimidate had failed but the final offensive worked on the weak characters who were informed that there were people inside the Planalto Palace interested in the defeat of Minister Golbery do Couto e Silva and particularly of Aquino Ferreira. Rumors were dropped in the ears of official leaders to the effect that arms caches have been found and Palestinians have entered the country.

The liberalization process has, in fact, been halted by the election of Deputy Nelson Marchezan who, as president of the chamber, is committed to repressing the autonomist sentiments of the legislative power and to maintaining the prestige of radical governmental sectors. Marchezan's victory, which was preceded by the sentencing of the metalworkers' leader, will be supplemented with propaganda about pending counterrevolutionary threats throughout the month in which the 17th anniversary of the "irreversible" March 1964 revolution will be celebrated. The new president of the chamber is committed to promoting the recovery of congressional privileges in the terms of the substitute proposal which was rejected by the Chamber of Deputies last year.

By any measure however, President Figueiredo won time to make arrangements while waiting for the results of Delfim Neto's economic policy, capable of dispelling the threats within the system itself and the threats outside of it posed by businessmen and workers.

After serving the government's purpose--although they did so under the strongest pressure--the politicians will continue under quarantine. But their chance will come through an election which President Figueiredo will not be able to eliminate no matter what pressure is exerted upon him. The resolution of tensions in the chamber has been postponed, but electorate's aspirations for the transfer of substantial amount of power have also become irreversible.

Yesterday's victory was achieved through the manipulations of fear and pressures which can be labeled the "February package." The pretext resorted to this time was the same resorted to for the "April package: manipulate to save the liberalization process.

LULA'S RELEASE SEEN AS POLITICALLY ASTUTE MOVE

PY030253 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Feb 81 p 3

[From "Note and Information" page: "Figueiredo Sets Lula Free"]

[Excerpt] No matter how many disavowals might yet be made, along with declarations about the sovereignty and independence of the judicial branch, there was no doubt about the fact that the decision yesterday to give Luis Ignacio da Silva, who had been sentenced in absentia to 3 and 1/2 years in prison, the benefit of Article 527 of the Military Penal Code was made by President Joao Baptista Figueiredo and his main political advisers. That article permits those sentenced by military courts to freely appeal their sentences and thus Lula and his colleagues will soon go on trial again, this time by the Superior Military Court. Although it is risky to speculate about court decisions, it seems that the punishment meted out to the metalworkers the day before yesterday will finally be dropped.

There is much more to this episode than may seem at first sight. It was a demonstration of political maturity on the part of the Planalto Palace which realized that the cause of political liberalization would be badly served by the imprisonment of the president of the Workers Party (PT). It is obvious that radical sectors which are interested in derailing the liberalization process worked to create the climate and forced the strong punishment which at first sight is unjustifiable considering that the case was nothing worse than a slight disrespect for the strike law. If the authorities were to sentence to 3 and 1/2 years, all labor leaders who continued inciting work stoppages after these had been declared illegal, the jails would be awfully crowded. From that standpoint, Lula was sentenced because he is Lula, that is, a man who is considered to be a dangerous subversive, defiant of the system, by some segments of the system of circles at the system's service.

The problem was that the extremists of the left greatly contributed to sending the metalworkers' leaders to prison for a few hours. These extremists wanted the labor leaders to remain in jail at least until the appeal procedure was completed in order to have them appear as victims, drawing domestic and international attention. Unforgivable from any standpoint other than to serve the purpose of creating those victims was the action of the lawyers who advised the labor leaders to become rebels by not showing up for their trial, thus disqualifying themselves from the right to appeal the sentences. Fortunately the government was aware of the intentions of the two radical groups and defused the case by finding a legal technicality to benefit the sentenced workers' leaders.

GUERRILLA CLAIMS BITTERMAN EXECUTED 21 FEB

PA030256 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0237 GMT 3 Mar 81

[By German Acero Espinosa]

[Text] Bogota, 2 Mar (EFE)--The National Coordination Board for the Rank and File of the 19 April (M-19) guerrilla organization announced here this evening the "execution" of Chester Allen Bitterman, a U.S. citizen kidnapped 12 January in Bogota.

At a news conference at the office of one of the negotiators in the "Bitterman case," a guerrilla stated that Bitterman was "executed" on 21 February.

The guerrilla, who identified himself as "Chucho," told newsmen that the M-19 could present no evidence of Bitterman being alive in a "people's jail" "because the deadline expired that day."

The guerrilla organization announced that day in a phone call to EFE that Bitterman would be executed at midnight on 21 February "somewhere in the country."

The subversive movement that kidnapped and murdered Jose Raquel Mercado Martinez, chairman of the Confederation of Workers of Colombia, in 1976, had set only one condition for Bitterman's release: the departure from the country of the Summer Institute of Linguistics (ILV), for which he worked.

The negotiator, who asked that his name be withheld, said the M-19 guerrillas who kidnapped Bitterman had rejected from the beginning the offers made by the ILV.

Two of them dealt with a cash-type ransom and the signature in Colombia or in some other country of a contract to seek the departure of the ILV from Colombia in the near future.

"The deadline was not today, or the day after tomorrow; the deadline was 21 February," the guerrilla said when newsmen asked him to publish a letter signed today by Bitterman to prove he was still alive.

"Chucho" said he could only present a note written by Bitterman many days ago, probably written at the place where he was held captive.

The M-19 dissident group not long ago presented a photograph of Bitterman playing chess. No other news of him has been received since that time.

The guerrilla said this subversive movement will continue other operations similar to Bitterman's kidnapping in order to pressure the ILV into leaving the country.

HAVANA CITES ECUADOREAN ENVOY STATEMENTS IN QUITO

FL021231 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Mar 81

[Text] The Ecuadorean ambassador to Cuba, Jorge Perez Concha, has declared in Quito that the persons who kidnapped him, other officials and an employee and stormed the diplomatic mission of that Andean country in the Cuban capital last month are habitual criminals.

The Ecuadorean diplomat thus responded to a campaign promoted in Ecuador by reactionaries and counterrevolutionary leaders of Cuban origin in an attempt to present the attackers and kidnappers as alleged freedom fighters.

Perez Concha, a well-known Ecuadorean journalist, asserted that Cuban authorities allowed him to inspect the thick criminal records which the attackers have accumulated for common crimes. They were arrested after a high-level Ecuadorean mission gave its consent for reestablishment of normalcy at the Ecuadorean diplomatic mission in Havana.

Perez Concha's statements followed the irrevocable resignation of Ecuadorean Deputy Foreign Minister Cornelio Marchan who was a member of the Ecuadorean mission that came to Cuba as a result of the criminal kidnapping and assault. Marchan said his resignation was in protest over the interference with and pressures on the Ecuadorean Government to turn what actually happened at the Ecuadorean Embassy in Havana against his country's relations with Cuba.

PERU-ECUADOR MEETINGS TO BE RESUMED 3 MARCH

PA020431 Paris AFP in Spanish 0220 GMT 2 Mar 81

[Text] Quito, 1 Mar (AFP)--The meetings to try to solve the Ecuadorean-Peruvian problem will be resumed on Tuesday at 0930 (1430 GMT), it was officially announced here tonight.

Public Information National Secretary Augusto Alvarado said in a brief announcement that the meeting adjourned in Huaquillas, Ecuador about 1800, after having met in originally in Tumbes in Peru.

The delegates decided they would consult with their respective governments before continuing the talks.

DELEGATIONS TAKE BREAK TO BRIEF GOVERNMENTS

PY021920 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0814 GMT 2 Mar 81

[Text] Lima, 2 Mar (LATIN)--The Peruvian and Ecuadorean military delegations today took a break in the peace negotiations which started on Thursday to inform their respective governments, and they will meet again tomorrow in the same border town 1330 km north of Lima.

A spokesman of the Peruvian delegation said that the demilitarization of the zone where the recent armed conflicts took place is being discussed, but that reviewing the 1942 Rio de Janeiro Protocol, which established the limits between the two countries, has not been included in the agenda.

The spokesman added that the delegations were also not going to discuss the placement of boundary posts in the remaining 76 km to be delimitated on the Condor Mountain Range, where the clashes, which resulted in casualties for the two parties, took place.

Peru and Ecuador share a 1,600 km common border. The negotiations took place alternatively in the two border towns of Huaquilla in the Ecuadorean zone and Aguas Verdes in the Peruvian zone.

The Peruvian delegation, which is headed by Vice Adm Jorge Du Bois, returned from Tumbes last night and it will inform the government on the results of the negotiations.

Last Friday Du Bois briefed President Fernando Belaunde Terry, the commanders of the three services, the chief of the Armed Forces Joint Command, the foreign minister and the head of the Council of Ministers, all of whom are members of the National Security Council, on the development of the negotiations.

The two delegations had lunch in Tumbes yesterday and after 4 hours of dialogue went to Huaquilla, but the Peruvian representatives surprisingly--to this journalist--then returned to Lima, where they refused to make any statements. Du Bois stated in Tumbes that the negotiations are aimed at adopting future measures to consolidate peace, suggest measures for the withdrawal of military forces and discuss disagreements.

Du Bois added: "I want to remind the Peruvian and Ecuadorean people that they are brother nations and that as such it is our duty to find a solution as soon as possible." A government source stated that Du Bois will inform the government on the preliminary results of the peace negotiations and that he will return to Tumbes tomorrow to resume talks with the Ecuadorean delegation, which is headed by Vice Adm Raul Sorroza.

The source added that, following government instructions, the Peruvian delegation is dealing with peace and demilitarization in the conflict zone but not reviewing the protocol which establishes Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States as guarantor countries.

Last week the guarantor countries asked Ecuador and Peru to maintain a direct dialogue and appointed the military attaches accredited to the two countries as observers.

The source pointed out the military and confidential nature of the negotiations and stated that the government will "opportunely" disclose the results reached regarding the peace treaty. He added that the Peruvian troops continue to be stationed at the observation posts in the Condor Mountain Range, 250 km from Tumbes, and that Ecuador has proceeded to demobilize its troops, according to the request of the guarantor countries.

TALKS HELD WITH BULGARIA ON TRADE, COOPERATION

FL281413 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0255 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Feb (NOTIMEX)--Bulgaria and Mexico have discussed financial programs to be carried out by two countries. Agreements on livestock-agricultural assistance and on the sale by Bulgaria of high-technology products are being prepared.

The announcement was made by Bulgaria's Chamber of Commerce President Petar Russev, who said that pressure by superpowers (the United States) to obtain badly needed raw materials from another state is not [as received] a form of colonialism.

At the conclusion of talks between Bulgarian and Mexican state officials and businessmen, Russev announced that the two economies coincide in objectives and that there is a real possibility of complementing each other.

Accompanied by Soviet Embassy Counselor Yuri Borissov, Russev commented that Mexico has concrete plans for the solution of the agricultural problem to which Bulgaria could make an outstanding contribution. In that sector, he said, Bulgaria can provide assistance to the Mexican technicians to improve the vegetable and cereal harvests as well as the cattle industry. He noted that Mexican-Bulgarian trade relations, which began in 1976, are concrete and friendly despite being "young."

Likewise, he talked about projects directed at the structuring of an advanced foodstuff industry and at providing training for technicians in the chemical and steel industries, specifically in the production of antibiotics and caustic soda. He predicted that, through Mexico, Bulgaria could open new markets in the rest of Latin America.

"This has already been proved in the branch of heavy machinery," he said. He added that even this market could be operated in a joint manner.

Petar Russev announced that the agreements will be signed before next May.

VARIOUS TRADE AGREEMENTS FINALIZED WITH ITALY

FL281439 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0349 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Feb (NOTIMEX)--The Governments of Mexico and Italy finalized a number of commercial, tourist and financial agreements as well as in the communications and transportation sectors.

The announcement was made by Under Secretary for Economic Affairs of the Foreign Secretariat Lic Jorge Eduardo Navarrete during the closing ceremony of the fourth meeting of the Mexico-Italy Joint Cooperation Commission.

Closing the work of the meeting, the representatives of the two countries discussed the need for continuing to hold meetings to give continuity to the trade relations.

Navarrete announced that in the future a great effort will be made to increase trade with Italy in order to reduce the deficit of the trade balance. He stated that the two countries delegations will continue to meet informally to work in the preparation of a number of programs of industrial cooperation. In that respect, he announced the possibility that a project on the construction of industrial ports in Mexico with Italian technology will soon be signed. Likewise, he noted that there is interest on the part of the two sides to establish air service between Rome and Mexico City, which would give an impetus to the tourist sector.

For his part, Italy's Deputy Foreign Minister Aristides Gunnella announced that his country's president, Allessandro Pertini, will visit Mexico within the next 2 months to strengthen commercial and friendly ties between the two countries.

TORRIJOS ON PANAMANIAN, REGIONAL AFFAIRS

PA021501 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 2 Mar 81 p 4

[By Jorge Mobeliard]

[Text] In a frank and open dialogue with members of the Inter-American Defense College in the tropical climate of Farallon on Panama's Pacific coast, Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, commander in chief of the National Guard, fired off so many scoops yesterday that the press didn't need to interview him on any subject.

Torrijos, who was elegantly dressed in informal summer clothes and who appeared calm and rested, did not evade any question from the visiting officers (who are on their first visit to Panama). At the same time, he surprised and drew applause from the visitors as a result of his simplicity, sincerity and dialectics.

This will be a dialogue without agenda or restrictions, Torrijos said on opening the meeting after greeting the distinguished people gathered there. Torrijos also asked for information on the defense college and received all kinds of information on its creation and its immediate objectives.

Domestic and International Subjects

Due to the direction of the questions, Torrijos referred to international and domestic subjects in which he stressed, among other things, the Cuban attitude in Africa, the harped-upon Salvadoran problem and the Panamanian position on the solution of the situation, the Nicaraguan Government and the course of its recent revolution, the sea-level canal and its repercussions and, lastly, he explained where the real power in Panama lies.

Panama Is Not a Springboard for Weapons or the Headquarters of Guerrillas

Referring to the explosive situation of El Salvador and the slaughter there, the commander in chief of the National Guard said that there are some who accuse Panama of being a springboard for weapons and the training of the guerrillas. "We went to Nicaragua but we have not sent a single .22-caliber bullet to El Salvador."

Nevertheless, Torrijos added that Panama is present in the problem, present "precisely because I graduated there and I have the prestige of being the man who presented [llevo] a negotiated solution." [as published]

According to General Torrijos, the coup in El Salvador promoted the most drastic social changes that have been promoted in the area, with an agrarian reform that Panama would not have been able to carry out. In this sense, he accused the left, which instead of joining in and supporting the reforms, began to fight to the extent that a generalized war has broken out.

"A long time has passed and the armed forces have not been able to eradicate terrorism because it almost cannot be eradicated, and the leftist groups have not been able to demoralize or to destroy the armed forces," Torrijos admitted.

He expressed the opinion that Panama's function is to serve as a contact in the conflict so that not as much innocent blood will be shed in the nearby country.

Commander Torrijos was sincere when he said that "many important meetings have been held here and all groups speak with us. All the groups converge here."

In this regard, he stressed the importance of the meetings that Social Democracy is holding here. He particularly has hopes that the meeting will result in very real recommendations to find a political solution because, in his view, this problem involves not only the 20,000 square kms of El Salvador, since there is fear that an intervention there will lead to another in Poland.

"We must not permit in the world even invasions against mosquitos," he said.

"I see a light in the road, a light at the end of the tunnel," he added while giving his final opinion on the results of the efforts by various governments to achieve a climate of peace that will guarantee full coexistence.

Cuba Is Seeking an End to the Blockade

Asked how he saw Cuba's intervention on the African continent, Torrijos said it is a power play between the two big powers. "Historically, Africa has a knack for expelling," he noted.

To Torrijos, Africa is like the sea which regains the ground that it has lost.

However, pondering the matter, he justified Cuba's attitude and stated that Cuba wants to attract U.S. attention to see if it will finally end the blockade.

Nixon, Carter and Reagan

Someone asked about the construction of the Inter-American Highway. Torrijos replied that Nixon placed much interest in it and Carter forgot about it, stressing human rights instead. Now it is expected that this one (Reagan) will build roads.

Who's in Power in Panama

Torrijos thought it a good joke for the occasion that a high-ranking militaryman asked him who is in command in Panama.

"I knew you all wanted to ask the same question."

Smiling, without hesitating or faltering, Torrijos slowly and intelligently recounted the National Guard coup which was basically directed at mapping out a strategy to recover the Panama Canal, among other goals.

"We took power in 1968, not by votes but by force," Torrijos admitted as he delved into the subject.

Regarding the guard's retreat to the garrisons, he noted that this happened methodically, without any problems. Although he didn't say it, the conclusion was drawn that the Panamanian guard withdrew to the garrisons worthily and decorously, without any jealousy between civilians and the military.

"There is no jealousy in this administration."

concerning himself, he said that he is playing the role of old master. "Sometimes I see them make mistakes, but I keep quiet because I think that is the best way to learn. Little is learned from advice," he reported.

Torrijos added that many people have been unable to find any justification for the specific fact that a man (meaning himself) should withdraw at the pinnacle of fame and while in power.

"I am pleased to say that if I go away, the process will go on because, while it is true that there are problems and crises, there are also programs and very good leaders, obviously meaning President Aristides Royo and his government team."

Is Nicaragua Leaning to the Left?

Another question concerned Nicaragua and the turn that the revolution has been taking. Torrijos answered that the revolution was not trumped up; it was brewing.

He added that the involvement of Panama and other nations in that country's problem has considerably toned down something more radical. "They (in open reference to the Sandinist National Liberation Front) are inclined to be rather moderate."

"That revolution cost 50,000 lives," the commander recalled.

He then stated that one learns to rule by ruling. He said that they are going through a learning phase. They are still not in control.

"One is not communist because he wants to be but because he can be." He noted that the Soviets have told the Nicaraguans that they cannot provide help because they lack funds.

Panamanian Armed Forces

Replying to another question about the role played by the Panamanian Armed Forces in this country and their role as an army, after exhaling a pleasant-smelling cigar, Torrijos said that the dimension and equipment of the armed forces should be considered, and you would first have to see "the problems that you have and just how imperialistic you are."

In this regard, he recalled that Panama has a border with Colombia and that generally, when there are problems, these are solved peacefully and intelligently. It would be pretentious to arm ourselves more than Colombia, "he remarked." [quotations as published]

However, Omar Torrijos added that what the National Guard does want is professionalism. Joining the guard is voluntary, he stressed.

Torrijos said that this is an unconventional war school and that the ninth grade must have been completed in order to enter. "Here, we have an abundance of unemployed doctors and teachers," he observed, and concluded by saying that it is a small army of some 10,000 to 12,000 men who have enough resources to face an unconventional war situation.

Regarding the School of the Americas which operates on national territory (old Canal Zone), he stressed that this school has its tradition. "We have all gone through it. And there, you hear complaints and rumors." Omar added that the school has been fought against by the left and the right, but that no school is bad. "It is the product that is bad."

Torrijos took the opportunity to announce the nation's decision not to close it "because we would go down in history as the ones who close down schools."

The Left Attacks

A high-ranking officer who was present at this continuous and indiscriminate stream of questioning bared the leftist pretensions of seizing control of the world and of conducting attacks in various countries. Torrijos looked at him thoughtfully for a while and told him: "What a leftist!" After that he replied: "Nobody can protect himself from this kind of cyclone." With regard to this, he said, persons cannot be such simpletons as to kill hungry people thinking this is how problems are solved. The blame falls on many elements. It is up to the armed forces to eliminate one of the elements, without it taking all the blame, he said, and added: "If there is a crisis, there are programs. This is achieved through a very well-consolidated social peace."

Social Peace in Panama

Referring to social peace in Panama, he said there has been peace here for the past 12 years. But not cemetery-like peace, he explained, adding that no sector is sufficiently furious as to resolve problems through violence.

Torrijos also took advantage of the occasion to speak of Panama's development with the construction of the hydroelectrical projects, although he advised that water should be used more to give the Panamanians more and better energy. He also stressed that this year we are going to produce 250 tons of sugar, 100,000 [kilograms] by the private sector and the rest by the public sector. Torrijos also went deeply into details regarding domestic problems.

Sea-Level Canal

On the possible construction of a sea-level canal in Panama, he said that the Japanese are exerting pressure because they would have wanted the work to have begun yesterday. "A sea-level canal would redesign all the shipyards of the world and would decongest maritime traffic."

However, Torrijos said that the project must be discussed further, and as he stopped to consider the pros and cons, he pointed out that the issue of the ecology was unforeseeable.

He also said that the Panama Canal is not obsolete and that ships are transiting quickly. However, he observed that the canal must pay for itself; it is not for the use of the Red Cross; it is for world commerce. He went on to say: Whoever controls the canal cannot increase tolls indiscriminately. The canal is not for establishing preferences; it is not for breaking up the line. "No preferences should be made for passing, even though it may be your godfather."

Concluding, he said that many people affirm that the only debt Panama does not have is with the blood bank, "which is not very far from being true, but this is necessary for developing."

"The nation's social and political environment is more palatable, more breathable now," General Torrijos reaffirmed.

VENEZUELA'S PEREZ ANALYZES EL SALVADOR SITUATION

PA011331 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Excerpts] The top leaders of the Social Democratic international [as heard] will open a meeting in our country tomorrow to discuss the main Latin American political problems. Emphasis will be placed on the crisis in Central America resulting from the civil war in El Salvador.

The meeting, which will include the top leaders of Latin America and Europe, was requested by Dominican leader Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, vice president of the Latin American branch of the organization.

The event will open tomorrow with a meeting of the Latin American leaders, who will form the preparatory committee for the drafting of the final agenda to be discussed at a plenum with European leaders Sunday.

Included among the 31 leaders will be special representatives from Spain, France, Portugal and West Germany. Some of the Latin American leaders who are already in Panama are Pena, leader of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, and former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. Other leaders will be arriving in the next few hours.

It is the intention of the leaders participating in the meeting to look for a political solution to the situation in El Salvador. Televisora Nacional managed to obtain an exclusive interview this afternoon with Perez, who outlined the plan to seek a political solution. Here is the interview:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Perez, viewing the turn of events in El Salvador within the Central American and Latin American context, and more particularly in light of U.S. statements in the last few hours, we would like you to give us your views concerning the Central American problem and, above all, the Salvadoran problem.

[Answer] My presence in Panama is precisely connected with this dramatic situation you have mentioned. We will be holding here, on Saturday and Sunday, a meeting of Latin American democratic leaders to review and establish positions regarding the new situation.

As of this moment we are confident we will be able to achieve a political or negotiated solution to restore peace in El Salvador and give this suffering people an opportunity to enjoy a truly democratic government with participation by all progressive forces. We are not for violence. Violence always begets violence. We accept it only as something unavoidable when the paths to peaceful solutions are closed.

Our view had been that the paths to peaceful solutions had not been closed in El Salvador. We had made efforts toward this end which plays an important role in Central America and Latin America in general.

We now see with profound concern the shift in the policy of the new U.S. administration. I do not believe that the threat to use force or a hardening of the U.S. treatment of Central America can lead to a solution that would be satisfactory or good for the United States itself. On the contrary, we are concerned that the new U.S. administration may get involved in an unsolvable situation which, rather than enhancing the prestige of the United States, may pit us against each other and allow the sectors which promote hatred against the United States to use this situation as a weapon against it.

We are interested in maintaining good relations with the United States. We are not anti-North American. But for us to be so, it is necessary that this great nation show understanding. We Latin Americans must be allowed to truly enjoy our right to self-determination. We must get help in fulfilling the commitment so many leaders of this region have undertaken to establish real democracy on our South American continent, without "isms" of any kind such as communism, ultraleftism or ultrarightism. This is what has been proposed for El Salvador.

Even though it is supported by a sector of the Christian Democratic Party, the Salvadoran military junta does not represent the Salvadoran people, does not enjoy popular support and is not offering viable paths to solve the problem. Neither will the guerrillas open the way to peace, social justice and democracy in El Salvador. Understanding is indispensable, and it must be admitted that the guerrillas are not there because the Soviet Union or Cuba are sending arms to them but because there is an unjust social situation there; because the oligarchic sectors are constantly committing crimes which have led a large segment of the population to rise against the appointed authorities and because, with the regrettable participation of a Christian Democratic leader, an attempt is being made to cover up the new plan of the military which has always helped the oligarchy exploit the people.

[Question] Mr Perez, to use your words about promoting an understanding as a means of solution, we would like to know: How can this understanding be achieved when the United States has just approved an increase in military aid to that nation to prevent what has been called an escalation of Marxist-Leninist activity?

[Answer] That is the serious thing. The United States is accusing the USSR and Cuba of providing weapons to the guerrilla sectors of El Salvador; but for its part, the United States is supplying weapons to the other sector--to the military junta, which is not the legitimate Salvadoran Government but a government imposed by force and one which, as is proved by the attitude of the Catholic Church, does not have the support of the Salvadoran people.

Therefore, an attempt is being made to justify one evil with another, and this is impossible. It is necessary for the United States--if it wishes to recover the moral authority to contribute to a solution and to denounce the alleged communist intervention in El Salvador--to refrain from placing itself on the other side.

What are we faced with? The foisting of the conflict between the superpowers, the conflict between the USSR and the United States, on to a poor, undernourished and exploited people like that of El Salvador. We want both the USSR and the United States to get out of El Salvador and permit a negotiated solution to open the way to harmony and the fraternity of the Salvadoran people, making possible a democratic solution that faces up to the serious economic problems and the poverty of the Salvadoran people.

[Question] Mr President, considering the facts and your knowledge of Central American problems, like the one which recently ended in Nicaragua, and observing the intransigence with which the proposed solution from Nicaragua was handled, we would like to know: What is the problem, the basic root that prevents the sectors in conflict at present in El Salvador from finding true understanding?

[Answer] There are possibilities of doing in El Salvador that which was not possible in Nicaragua. Otherwise, what will happen? The Salvadoran Government, which is illegitimate, will not be able to control public order because it inspires no faith, since that military-Christian Democratic parapet is shielding the extreme rightist paramilitary groups that are killing dozens of Salvadorans every day.

On the other hand, the Salvadoran people, organized into guerrilla groups, will also be unable to defeat a government that has the total support of the United States. Nor would it be the best solution for war to define the situation in El Salvador. The result, therefore, the unfortunate and fatal result, will be a small Vietnam in El Salvador, with the intervention of the United States. Will this be beneficial to the United States? Will a U.S. intervention be beneficial to Latin America or Central America? The answer is emphatically no. That would be a tragedy. It would again create an antagonism that is dangerous, at this time, between the United States and Latin America.

I am certain that from the Rio Grande to Patagonia, all the peoples would rise up in protest against the presence of U.S. forces in Central America. We want understanding with the United States and we would like the new Reagan government to establish a dialogue and contacts with us, the democratic leaders of Latin America, to enable us to honestly try to reach some formulas of agreement so that we might all contribute to a negotiated solution in El Salvador. Force, military action, will only bring greater evils to the region.

[Question] Finally, would you be willing to be a member of a commission on behalf of Latin America that would try to carry out talks with the U.S. Government to avoid bloodshed in El Salvador?

[Answer] Certainly. We are holding talks with officials of the U.S. Government. Our position has nothing to do with the position or the confrontation between international communism and the United States. Our position is authentically and sincerely democratic. However, we denounce the fact that there is an attempt to again create, behind the specter of communism, a situation that will benefit the transnational companies which, in alliance with the native oligarchies, have been exploiting our peoples for over a century and reducing immense portions of the Latin American population to abject poverty.

[Question] Do you believe the Panama Canal would remain neutral on the Salvadoran problem? [as received]

[Answer] There is another problem. We played a prominent role in the solution of the serious crisis that was created by the undermining of Panamanian sovereignty, and the Torrijos-Carter treaties put an end to that serious irregularity which was a source of dishonor to the United States itself: the attempt to maintain a colony in the very heart of Latin America.

However, those treaties can be violated directly or indirectly. Panama is already being used as a base for U.S. aid to El Salvador. That is a violation of Panamanian sovereignty. That is a forced complicity being imposed on the Panamanian people against another sister country, the Central American country of El Salvador. I believe this comprises the neutrality of the canal. However, instead of denouncing it, instead of taking to the streets in protest, what we should do is seek ways to convince the United States that there are peaceful, cordial solutions of understanding that would enhance the prestige of that great northern nation in the eyes of our countries and would bring us closer to mutual cooperation, to an understanding and to a new type of relationship. That is what President Carter wanted.

I believe we cannot forget the tasks President Carter had set for himself in Latin America with that refreshing position of emphasizing human rights. If the Reagan government, within Republican ideas, within its own objectives, were to adopt from the Carter policy that which he attempted to do in Latin America, it is certain that we would smooth the way for an understanding between the North and the South and for the solution of the Central American problems.

We are not in any way furthering the plans of the USSR or Cuba in Central America or in any other part of Latin America. We reject both the intervention of the United States and that of the USSR, with perhaps even greater reason. But we cannot under any circumstances accept under the pretext of a fight against communism a reopening of the paths of exploitation, dictatorship and oppression by the antihistory forces that have been delaying the development and the well-being of the Latin American peoples.

FMLN COMMANDERS REPORTEDLY MEET WITH SOCIALISTS

PA121232 Paris AFP in Spanish 0200 MT 2 Mar 81

[Text] San Jose, 1 Mar (AFP)--The AGENCIA PERIODISTICA INDEPENDIENTE (AIP) has reported here that two commanders of the Salvadoran Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), Ferman Cienfuegos and Joaquin Villalobos, met in Panama today with the German [as received], Bernt Carlsson, secretary general of the Socialist International.

Carlsson is currently presiding at a meeting of the Latin American section of the Socialist International being held in Panama to discuss the Salvadoran conflict. In the meeting, the Social Democratics have taken the side of the opposition, headed by Guillermo Ungo.

The talk between the guerrilla commanders and Carlsson "took place in a fraternal climate," AIP reports, "and there was agreement on the importance of ending the bloodshed in El Salvador on the basis of the basic principles of that country's democratic and revolutionary forces."

"Commanders Cienfuegos and Villalobos explained in detail to Carlsson the situaton being experienced by their people and called on the Socialist International to confirm and to maintain its opposition to the intervention and blockade which threaten to regionalize the conflict," according to the report circulated here today.

The meeting of two of the five members of the FMLN leadership with the secretary general of Socialist International was described by spokesmen for the group as "a very important step in the search for a solution to the Salvadoran conflict."

"This meeting also constitutes a heavy blow to the political-diplomatic offensive launched by the Reagan administration," the spokesmen said.

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL ASSESSES REGIONAL PROBLEMS

PA021827 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 2 Mar 81 p 2

[By Euclides M. Corro and Erich Rodriguez Auerbach]

[Text] While Brig Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera held an important meeting at Farallon with members of the Inter-American Defense Committee, a significant meeting was underway in Panama City of representatives of the Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean with the purpose of discussing the current Central American crisis and U.S. military intervention in the internal affairs of the area.

The meeting was chaired by Dominican Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, president of the Socialist International in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The meeting was also attended by Swedish Bernt Carlsson, secretary general of the Socialist International, who also represented the president of the Social Democratic Party of the FRG, Willy Brandt.

During the 2 days of talks, the speakers who participated were former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez; Elena Florez of Spain; Guillermo Ungo, Hector Oqueli and Gerardo Godoy of El Salvador; Volkmar Gabert and Laus Linderberg of Germany; O'Brian Trotman of Barbados; Oscar and Manuel Carballo of Costa Rica; Anselmo Sule of Chile; Antoine Blanca of France; Carlos Gallardo of Guatemala; Rui Mateus of Portugal; Pierre Schori of Sweden; and Tomas Hernandez of the Dominican Republic.

Pena Gomez described as important "the presence in this meeting of all the necessary forces to achieve a solution to the Central American problem."

Replying to a question by CRITICA, he criticized the policy of the new U.S. President Ronald Reagan, which he described as negative and destined to awaken the dormant anti-American feelings that the Carter policy had helped to assuage.

He added that "this is an erroneous step which will not contribute to solving the problems of these countries. It is no coincidence that the violence that existed in these countries, as in the case of Nicaragua and now in El Salvador and Guatemala, is due precisely to the presence of reactionary dictatorships supported by the United States."

For his part, former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez defined the meeting as a result of the increasing concern over the developing situation in Central America, primarily the case of El Salvador. "It would appear as if we are being made the target of the controversy between the superpowers, between the United States and the Soviet Union," he added.

He said that "this is a matter which concerns all of us Latin Americans."

Finally, he appealed to the Salvadoran sectors to engage in a constructive dialogue so they can find a democratic way out for their country.

Another of the leaders interviewed by local and foreign newsmen on arriving at the sessions room of this meeting at the Holiday Inn in Tocumen was Spaniard Elena Florez of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party. In brief statements, Mrs Florez said that "Spain has a defined position of support and assistance to the movements of liberation in Central America."

Finally, CRITICA interviewed Guillermo Ungo, former member of the junta of the Government of El Salvador in October of 1979.

He said that in his country the people are inclined to struggle to achieve peace and democracy, and the will exists to seek a political solution that will permit the ending of the bloodbath suffered in El Salvador.

"The key factor that could provide a national solution for the Salvadorans would be an end to U.S. intervention and military assistance, which is the factor that is maintaining an unpopular and repressive junta," Ungo stated.

Asked about the call to dialogue made by Jose Napoleon Duarte, Ungo said that "that is a propaganda maneuver. One cannot speak to a man who is killing the people."

He concluded by saying that "we have been waiting for 50 years in our country during which time they have spoken of elections, liberty and democracy, and we have only been repressed and the will of the people has been mocked."

The deliberations were held behind closed doors during the 2-day meeting.

EL SALVADOR

HANDAL REPLIES TO U.S. CHARGES ON ARMS SUPPLY

PA021800 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Mar 81

[Text] Shafick Jorge Handal of El Salvador's Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] replies to charges made against his revolutionary movement by imperialism.

Here is the report, which comes from Mexico City:

Shafick Jorge Handal, of the FMLN National Command, rejected as false the documents supposedly seized from Salvadoran guerrillas regarding the socialist countries' arms support.

In an open letter signed in San Salvador and forwarded to the newsdesks of various communications media, Handal describes the reports on these supposed documents as a maneuver to justify the mounting U.S. supply of arms and personnel to El Salvador's Christian Democratic junta.

The letter, signed by Handal, states textually:

On 6 February, the New York TIMES published a front-page commentary that mentions documents supposedly seized from Salvadoran guerrillas which involves leaders of Vietnam, Ethiopia, the USSR, the GDR, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary through arrangements with me as secretary general of the Communist Party of El Salvador [PCES] to send arms to the revolutionary movement of this country.

In this regard, I make the following statement:

1. I reject as false the charges published regarding these arrangements. There is no doubt that this is a maneuver intended to justify the growing supply of U.S. arms and military personnel to the genocidal Christian Democratic-military junta and to establish the foundation for an eventual military aggression in Central America.

2. For 50 years, the Salvadoran people have been struggling for democratic freedoms and time and again the reactionary military tyranny, invariably helped by the U.S. Government in office, has reacted by massacring and repressing them.

The military dictatorship, the oligarchy and the Government of the United States have thus pushed the Salvadoran people to armed struggle. This, therefore, is a struggle that is historically legitimate and just. Nobody can now be honestly surprised that this nation has risen in arms to exercise its right to self-determination. Nevertheless, causes are already being sought in supposed conspiracies of the USSR and other socialist countries with the PCES.

3. I demand from the U.S. Government an explanation of what moral right it has to question the right of the Salvadoran people to arm themselves and wage a war of survival against their executioners, a just war of national liberation. What moral and legal authority does the U.S. Government have to question this since, as everyone knows, the United States is the greatest supplier of arms to the bloody dictatorships of Latin America and all continents?

4. After so much experience all over the world, the U.S. Government must already know that revolution is a historic law of social development which will also triumph in El Salvador today or tomorrow, and despite the retrogressive desires of whoever it may be, we will continue to be geographic neighbors.

We must think then of our future relations. As far as we are concerned, we in no way want hostile relations with the United States in the future. We feel so much sympathy for the U.S. people, and so many of our compatriots live and work there. On the contrary, we pronounce ourselves in favor of friendly and constructive relations based on mutual respect and mutual coexistence.

It would appear as though the U.S. Government prefers to dedicate itself to poisoning, as of today, those future relations.

5. Lastly, the U.S. Government should explain to U.S. and world public opinion how it is that its intelligence services and the State Department obtained the documents captured from Salvadoran Guerrillas. It should also explain why these supposed documents were first published in New York and not in El Salvador and why the State Department and not the fascist Christian Democratic junta is in charge of publishing them.

Whoever looks at the situation and sees the charges appearing in the New York TIMES with repeated reference to sources in the State Department and the intelligence services of its country will see more proof of the way in which the U.S. Government is intervening in the domestic affairs of El Salvador--something that cannot be hidden--on the side of the worst cause, in favor of the rabid massacrers, torturers and corrupted executioners of the Salvadoran people.

NICARAGUAN LINKS MAJANO, CLARAMOUNT TO GUERRILLAS

PA012324 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 28 Feb p 4, 23

[Text] Nicaraguan citizen Orlando Tardencillac Espinoza reasserted yesterday, during his second appearance, that Col Adolfo Majano and Guillermo Manuel Ungo had always maintained contact and that Col Ernesto Claramount Rozzeville has been linked to the Salvadoran subversive movement.

Tardencillac said that during his stay with the Armed Forces of National Resistance, he had learned of many activities, of this and other extremist groups. It was then that he learned of the permanent contacts between Col Adolfo Majano, former revolutionary government junta member, and Guillermo Manuel Ungo, also a member of the junta which succeeded Gen Carlos Humberto Romero. Ungo was recently elected chairman of the Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR].

Regarding Col Ernesto Claramount, Tardencillac said that Claramount had always been linked to leftist organizations and that his statements to local newspapers claiming his innocence in this respect are false.

BATTLE IN CONCHAGUA VOLCANO REGION CONTINUES

PA012157 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 28 Feb 81 p 5, 26

[Text] The battle on Conchagua Hill, in La Union Department, continued yesterday and it was said that the army has "surrounded the main body of terrorists who have been harassing the armed forces and civilian population in recent months."

Artillery fire could still be heard in La Union yesterday, and it was confirmed that the troops had aerial support. An armed forces spokesman, who refused to be identified, said that "this time we have them surrounded and they will not escape as they did before."

Airstrikes on Guerrilla Posts

PA022230 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 2 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] People in La Union have reported that Salvadoran planes and helicopters struck at the guerrilla camps on the slopes of Conchagua hill. The operation began at 0600 on 28 February and lasted until noon. People in La Union and nearby towns could see the planes and helicopters over Conchagua hill. The operation is being supported by infantry units which are inching uphill over very difficult terrain to try to finish off this guerrilla redoubt, military spokesmen reported by telephone.

Military posts in La Union were attacked Thursday morning by terrorists but they were repelled and fled to Conchagua hill, where it is believed they are receiving supplies from planes late at night. These planes are coming from the Nicaraguan side. The people also said they have seen campfires on Conchagua hill and similar ones at the very top of Cosiguina Volcano.

In other parts of the country, troops have been defeating the extremists, who are surrendering to accept the amnesty offered by the government which ends on 11 March.

FMLN Version

PA020402 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] informs the people that on 26 February at 0800, FMLN forces simultaneously attacked the military posts at Chilmagua, Instipuca and La Union in the La Union and San Miguel Departments. At La Union Port, our militia organized meetings and distributed propaganda with the broadest support of the people. The enemy admitted two casualties.

In reprisal, the genocidal military junta ordered a vast criminal operation against the people living on the slopes of the Conchagua Volcano. At least two jet airplanes, according to their own statements, were sent to bomb the humble residents of La Union Department. The operation which continued on Friday failed completely. The FMLN forces are intact while enemy casualties are numerous. Our forces not only repelled the attack but after regrouping, launched a successful counteroffensive.

On 26 February at 0900, our militia built many barricades in Apopa, only 10 km from San Salvador.

NUMEROUS GUERRILLAS GATHERING IN SUCHITOTO AREA

PA012150 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 27 Feb 81 p 3

[Excerpt] It was officially reported today that numerous guerrilla groups, armed with machineguns and carrying "long, thick tubes," are mobilizing from Chalatenango, in the Cerro Grande area, to El Corozal Canton in Suchitoto. Meanwhile, the armed forces began to reinforce garrisons in La Bermuda and other cantons in the area.

It was also reported yesterday morning that the military in Suchitoto had learned that many guerrillas were crossing the reservoir on their way to this district, and a combined operation was immediately organized using navy launches against the guerrillas. Most of them managed to escape and only a few stragglers were discovered approaching the banks in the Suchitoto region. They opened fire on the armed forces and a short gunfight ensued.

ANALYSTS SEE WORSENING ECONOMIC SITUATION

FL272040 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1934 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Feb (SALPRESS/NOTIMEX)--The present Salvadoran economic panorama is extremely confused. On the one hand, there seems to be broad awareness that the economy is rapidly sinking into the deepest crisis the country has experienced since the 1930's; and on the other, official sources assert that there is no crisis or that the economy is in a recovery process.

In 1980, all indicators that determine the gross national product (GNP) had a negative growth ranging from minus 53.9 percent as in the case of air cargo to minus 15.6 percent in the case of gasoline consumption. These figures lead university researchers to the conclusion that the GNP last year had a negative growth of minus 17 percent.

Researchers of the University Center of Documentation and Information of El Salvador point out in a February publication that per capita income in 1979 was 800 colones ($320), while in 1980 it was 644.6 colones ($257.84), and estimates for 1981 indicate that it will be 511 colones ($196.60).

Indicators of the depression of the Salvadoran economy, the analysts note, "are alarming." The negative growth of the GNP was minus 1.9 percent in 1979 and minus 17 percent in 1980, and a negative growth similar to last year is expected for 1981. Moreover, there are great possibilities that economic activity, that is, the overall supply of goods and services, has decreased to lower levels than that of 1974.

To have an idea of the seriousness of the problem of GNP growth: It was 4.8 percent in 1971 and minus 17 percent in 1980, which means that in real terms the Salvadoran economy has not grown and over the past 10 years has decreased to minus 21.8 percent in relation to 1971.

Economists point out that 1979 marked the beginning of an extremely critical situation for the Salvadoran economy and society. Beginning that year and thereafter there has been a lack of possibilities and a worsening situation. In other words, the Salvadoran economy in 1981 reportedly will find itself in the same situation as in mid-1960 or, in other words, it has gone backward 15 to 20 years.

The analysts of the University Center of Documentation and Information conclude that El Salvador is experiencing an economic crisis that is "deep and manifests itself by an abrupt decrease of the overall supply and demand of goods and services accompanied by fewer jobs."

The 1980 national emergency plan and the different mechanisms the government has used on its current economic policy "have been ineffective," they warn.

The publication concludes by saying that should such a policy continue in effect, the aforementioned trends will continue, thereby intensifying the Salvadoran economic crisis even more. Col Jaime Abdul Gutierrez, member of the government junta, recently said that approximately $500 million are required to restore the Salvadoran economy--$240 million to even the balance of payments and $260 million for public investments.

There is disagreement on this. Last Monday, Eng Jose Napoleon Duarte, who also is a member of the government junta, said that "$300 million are needed to overcome the economic crisis."

ADDITIONS TO DUARTE SPEECH OF 27 FEBRUARY

The following additions to the item entitled "Duarte States Willingness To Hold Dialogue" published in the 2 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, page P 4, were taken from San Salvador Domestic Service on 28 February, thus providing full text of the article:

"The crisis was generated when those who had the responsibility and political-military and social power disavowed the needs and will of the people and little by little began to frustrate the desires and unrest of all the social sectors and engender a society filled with hatred, rancor and frustration which led to the radicalization, which led to a group of Salvadorans feeling that they could only remedy the situation through arms, through violence.

"Lost were the opportunities to solve this situation in concord, through democracy, and they sought the paths of human elimination, the loss of values, the factors that forget ethics and morals to convert all of society, on the basis of abuse, on the basis of violence.

"This is what made me come over here to talk to you, and through you and through the communications system to speak to the people themselves, to these people who at this moment are listening to us on the radio, on television and who know that all of us Salvadorans are concerned over this crisis, this situation in which our country is enveloped."

On page 4, insert at end of second paragraph: "I would like to touch on some issues, on important matters that should be made clear to this country, to explain to all Salvadorans and to foreigners listening to us what it is we are doing, what it is this government proposes to do to prevent misunderstandings. Because what we received 1 year ago was a nation that was uncontrolled, in social disarray, in absolute disobedience. Because unfortunately our society has been unfair, but more unjust, has put into the hearts of many generations a feeling of disobedience, a feeling in which we have not understood that the respect of one person toward another is the basis of an equitable and just society. That respect of one person for others is the foundation of liberty. That is how we understood it for many years. And for this reason everyone selfishly thought: What can I get out of this society? Let us see how I can make more cash or more money; let us see how I can make profits, and nobody cared if people died of hunger, and nobody cared if people were illiterates, and people did not care if people died in the hospitals for lack of doctors or medicine. And nobody cared that we had to plant grain in order to eat. We were all thinking about what profits we could make.

"A society that grew like this has of course engendered injustice. And these frameworks of reference are the first things we must change. We must change social values. We must build a society in which all of us understand that we fight for ourselves, but we must also fight for others, that we must work in order to live, in order to make our living, but also we cannot abuse others, that property is not only for achieving personal goals but it also can be used for others to live in dignity. These are the fundamental things. We must make our society adopt new values, Christian values which Christ taught us 2,000 years ago but which society and the world has forgotten.

"From a social viewpoint, we just recover peace. Our people live in violence. And it is the desire of the government and the desire of the army to achieve peace. And that is what we are fighting for, to make it possible for these actions filled with hatred, these actions of death and blood to disappear.

"That is why I ask the people of Juayua and the towns of my country to stop engendering local hatred, of one toward the other. Personal differences are what have caused these conditions. And there are towns where they killed each other, and this has created the prevailing situation.

"We must bring peace to the nation. We are committed to this and that is why on 15 October the Army said: We are going to change things; we will change them so there can be a climate of peace. And the programs show that the social changes needed to lay the groundwork for a new structure will be brought about. We must bring about those social changes. We must bring them about because they are necessary for the country. The agrarian reform is not a matter of hatred; it is not a matter of taking from the one who has in order to give to someone else. No--hatred is not what must be present in the agrarian reform. We must understand that we have a very small piece of land and that we have thousands upon thousands, millions of Salvadorans. And this little piece of land is all we have.

Our land does not have gold, it does not have silver, it does not have oil; all it has is its small size, which we must plant on and fight against so it can feed us all. So it is unfair for some people to have 2,000, 3,000, 5,000 and even 10,000 hectares of land here in our country. The fair thing is to set a limit. What is the land size limit that does not hurt the country and yet is enough for us to work on? These are the limits we have established. When we say the limit should be 100 hectares, it is because we think that up to that point it does not hurt the country, that up to that point it is good for the country and that whoever has 100 hectares and cultivates them can live well himself and can help his fatherland.

"As for the rest of the land, we must give opportunities to others, to the peasant who had no hope. Now he can join a cooperative. That is why the agrarian reform is important without hatred, without rancor, but working so everybody can have a chance. This is important. We must also say, for the tranquillity of all Salvadorans, that the agrarian reform is a process, that it is not a case of a decree being issued and everything being implemented tomorrow. No; it cannot be done that way. Let me explain: In order to bring about the first phase of the agrarian reform, which involved 272 properties, we had to use the entire Agriculture Ministry, the entire Agrarian Reform Institute, all the state's funds, all the state's employees, all the state's technicians and the entire army. This was needed to be able to bring about this first phase of the agrarian reform. The second part of the agrarian reform includes leased lands which will gradually pass to the hands of those leasing them.

"And this phase, which is called phase two of the agrarian reform program, involves land ranging between 500 and 100 [as heard] hectares. I wish to explain to all Salvadorans that there are approximately 3,000 properties, and if in the first phase, which involved 300 properties, we had to use all our resources, it is logical that we will not be able to handle the 3,000 properties overnight because we do not have the physical capacity to do so. Therefore, if we were to divide the 3,000 properties by 300, you will see that we will need at least 5 to 10 years to complete the second phase. Therefore, those of us who are involved in this process must understand that things must be planned so that they can be carried out properly, to avoid errors, to correct things as we learn, because this land reform is intended to be good for the country and not hurt anyone.

"These being the circumstances then, I would like to ask Salvadoran farmers to have faith, to have faith and work their lands because they can be sure that this government does not want to hurt anyone. It wants to be just. Those whose lands have been appropriated--some 500 hectares so far--will all be paid in bonds in accordance with the provisions of the law. We are doing this. Payment has already been made to some, and distribution of the bonds will continue because this government is not confiscating anything from anyone. What we want is for those farmers who were formerly agricultural entrepreneurs to become industrial entrepreneurs because that is where we need them. We want them to work, to produce, because this is of benefit to the country, because their initiative and their ability will be directed toward those areas.

"That is why the agrarian reform bonds state that they can be invested in the industrial process. We must therefore understand that this is a process and we are going to make a plan. The person in charge of the land reform, Morales Ehrlich, will present the plan that we will develop to the country to avoid confusion, to forestall distortions and to make it possible for everyone to know just how we are going to operate on the agrarian issue.

"Yesterday we approved the agricultural plan for the country. The aim of that agricultural plan is to increase production. One is being patriotic when one sows because the fatherland needs the crops. The fatherland needs to have all Salvadorans cultivate our land so it may produce the maximum. For this reason the agrarian plan means an increase in production and it means to put at the disposal of all sectors--the reform sectors, the cooperatives, the small farmers, the medium farmers--the means to work, to produce. Yesterday we approved the line of credit for them to do so, for them to help the country in this production effort, and in this way to show the world that all Salvadorans understand what we are attempting to do in this process, which is a process of change without crushing anyone, a process of basic changes based on love rather than on hatred.

"But we also have other changes--the banking reform that we have carried out. This was also done without hatred or rancor. On Tuesday of this week we approved the first payment to owners of the banking stock certificates. It represents one-fifth of all the investments that had belonged to the owners of the banks. We are going to make payment in cash, in money. Why? Because this is the pledge we made to solve the problem.

"Therefore, we are fulfilling the pledges that should be fulfilled. We hope the money will not go abroad. We hope the money will remain here and will be put to work and that those men who were formerly managing the banks, as intelligent men, will know what to do with that money for the good of the country. We are sure that will be the case. We urge them not to harm the country by sending that money abroad, to do good for their fatherland by working here in El Salvador, because we all have a place in this country. We can all contribute to improving the country.

"We have therefore--and the problem of coffee comes in here--another important reform, the foreign trade reform. We have created two institutions: INCAFE [National Coffee Institute] and INAZUCAR [presumably the National Sugar Institute] to administer those two areas. We are doing this to serve the country better. Where the coffee problem is concerned--and the president of INCAFE is present here--I believe everyone in our country knows that the price is very low and that the situation is difficult, and that we are all going to suffer the consequences of that situation. But it is important to know that at this time what we must all do is work and maintain our production levels. As long as we do this, despite losses--and the government has given a line of credit to cover this problem of losses. [sentence as heard] Therefore, at this time the differences in prices that may occur will be covered by a 3-year line of credit. This means that if today you have not earned enough to pay off your loans, you will be able to obtain the difference as a 3-year loan. This will give us enough time to solve the problem of world prices. And when there is money available, when you have received better prices, you will be able to pay.

"That's the way we are trying to solve an acute, difficult problem today, but what we need is time. We need time to keep the national economy going and then, together with the army, we will be able to solve the problems of terrorism and violence in the country. That is the contribution we all have to make, each in his own trench; soldiers in the battle trench, peasants in the trench of sowing, the townspeople in the trench of peace, we in the trench of the government, trying to solve everyday problems, and the children in the trench of school, together with the teachers, learning and teaching to be better citizens, more responsible people who will undertake the task of continuing to lead the nation down the road to justice and freedom, which are our goals.

"These basic changes are not whimsical. One cannot say tomorrow: Let's stop here; let's not go on doing any of this. Why? Because if that were the case, the only thing we would be doing is deceiving the people. The only thing we would be doing would be placing ourselves in a position justifying the raison d'etre of the guerrillas and subversion. They are an urgent need but we have to carry them out conscientiously, and it is important that we all understand this.

"I think none of you forgets that the national economic situation is difficult due to what we said about the coffee prices, due to gasoline and petroleum prices, due to world-wide inflation, due to the fact that our items don't have good world market prices. Therefore, we have little chance of obtaining dollars and so we are faced with problems because industrialists cannot purchase raw materials without dollars. Businessmen cannot purchase all the things they would like to put on sale because they have no dollars. But the most important things are food, drugs and manure to grow raw materials. These things have to be given priority to enable the government's economic program to be a domestic austerity program so that we won't squander, so that we won't spend on unnecessary items, so that we will save cents and dollars and so that this can generate the necessary movement in the country.

"Therefore, we ask the world to help us with international credits because we need those dollars so that the nation can function. This is a hard-working nation. This is a dynamic nation. This nation can forge ahead with little. We need that little bit of help because I am certain that the hard-working and dynamic Salvadoran people will forge ahead.

"Let me explain that in order not to suffer at home during this austerity program, this process of protecting things to give us time to solve the problems of terrorism and violence that we have, we have to solve problems such as we have with the taxes. Someone asked how taxes can be levied right now. I think none of us can deny that all the things happening to us, all this violence, costs money. It costs money for soldiers to guard the streets and ensure calm. All this has to be paid for. Who pays for it? We Salvadorans--each of us has to contribute a little bit. The stamp now attached to tobacco and liquor or the tax charged when you buy shoes--that small contribution entails economic resources to save the nation. I think the people understand this and they are willing to contribute.

"It is also important to explain other things. For instance, these other taxes such as the National Administration of Waterworks and Sewers [ANDA] tax which has been so bandied about. ANDA used to charge little before because the state allocated a number of millions for the people not be charged a water tax. However, when the state funds are used for other more important things with greater priority, you will understand that obviously and logically we have to distribute the water costs accordingly and everyone has to pay for what he uses. Therefore, let's not use any more water than we need because we have to bring water from farther away every day and it is more costly every day. Let's care for our water. Let's not waste it and thus we will help the country not spend so much. These are the basic things in the economic plan."

LATE REPORT: FMLN ACTIONS; SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

PA031256 San Jose Radio Noticias del Continente in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Mar 81

[Report on latest actions of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and reaction to Panama City Socialist International meeting, dated 1 March 1981; read by "a spokesman for the FMLN General Command from somewhere in El Salvador"--live or recorded]

[Text] The information section of the general command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] informs the Salvadoran people and all the peoples of the world:

Friday, 27 February 1981: Ambush to harass the enemy at the black bridge on the highway between Zacatecoluca and San Vicente. The National Guardsmen and soldiers of detachment No 5 of San Vicente fied in panic after the first shots were fired, taking away their casualties.

Our fighters of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front report acts of sabotage against a transnational construction company at Km 52 of the Pan-American Highway. In the action, two trucks and three Caterpillar tractors were damaged.

Saturday, 28 February 1981: Acts of sabotage involving explosives against the ITT international company at (El Calonge). The enemy admitted to losses of approximately 250,000 colones.

Also on Saturday, 28 February, FMLN fighters reported that in the fight for San Lorenzo, San Vicente Department, we inflicted no less than 50 casualties on the enemy. For its part, the FMLN reports that the best sons of the people sustained five casualties.

On Saturday, 28 February, in Santa Ana, a military convoy was ambushed. No casualties were reported. On that same day, the International Red Cross representative blamed the repressive forces for the disappearance of at least 750 Salvadorans.

At the same time, he accused the genocidal junta of using the vehicles and emblems of the Red Cross to transport weapons and troops. He added that the food provided by the Red Cross is being taken by officials and persons close to the junta. This is a clear accusation against the genocidal ones, who violate all conventions and laws of war.

On Saturday, 28 February, a long letter signed by Captain Mena Sandoval and presented by our fighters of the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front made serious charges against the genocidal colonel, Jaime Abdul Guitierrez.

According to Capt Mena Sandolval's statement, Col Abdul Gutierrez literally infiltrated the young officers' movement and staged maneuvers to get appointed as a member of the junta and, moreover, sponsored the assassins Colonels Garcia and Vides Casanova.

Additionally, Mena Sandoval also accused Colonel Gutierrez of having ordered the placement of bombs in the homes of well-known professionals of the Catholic University. He also said that in December 1980, the Santa Ana Garrison received an order to kill honest and democratic professionals. This order, Captain Mena Sandoval says, was signed by Colonel Gutierrez.

Continuing his statement, Captain Mena Sandoval accused Colonel Gutierrez of corruption, of stealing wages, of the illegal sale of gasoline and scrap iron to the armed forces arsenal and of having reached an agreement with the murderous General Romero, when the latter was displaced from government, to see that all the prisoners of war were protected

These charges, coming as they do from an honest and patriotic military officer, are of special importance to the Salvadoran people.

Sunday, 1 March 1981: The enemy continues a genocidal operation in the area of San Rafael, La Bermuda, in Cuscatlan Department. On that day, the genocidal army entered (Cerepal) Canton in Suchitoto; Chaparal, Salitre, in San Jose Guayabal; and Tres Ceibas Canton of Guazapa, all in Cuscatlan Department.

The genocidal officers ordered the soldiers to set fire to dozens of houses, to kill barnyard fowl and domestic animals, to steal the belongings of humble peasants and to poison anything that could serve as food. Hundreds of peasants have been evicted and persecuted. According to the peasants, 60 humble townspeople turned themselves in to the army and immediately 17 men were separated from the group to be killed in a cowardly manner.

In defense of the civilian population, our fighters clashed with the enemy on several occasions, inflicting many casualties. The FMLN must regret the loss of five brave militiamen on those occasions. Ten of our fighters who were injured are being treated by our health brigades.

The FMLN denounces the arrest of Hugo Rafael Mendoza, a leader of the bank workers union, and we join the voices that are demanding his immediate release.

Also today, 1 March, our companeros, Commanders Ferman Cienfuegos and Joaquin Villalobos met with Bernt Carsson, secretary general of the Socialist International, to present to him an analysis of the experience of an entire struggling people and to urge the Socialist International to confirm and maintain its anti-interventionist position against the Yankee attempts to regionalize the conflict in El Salvador and to support the Salvadoran peoples' struggle.

The FMLN greatly appreciates this gesture by Mr Carlsson and the Socialist International.

Today, 1 March, Yankee imperialism suffered a crushing defeat in its attempts to legalize direct armed intervention in El Salvador. The Socialist International declaration signed today in Panama City constitutes an overwhelming victory for the Salvadoran people and a defeat for U.S. imperialism, because:

1. Yankee arrogance was defeated in its attempts to take on the role of gendarme in the Central American region;
2. The Yankee attempts to divide the Socialist International by attempting to place the European international in conflict with the Latin American international were unsuccessful
3. Yankee attempts to present the Salvadoran conflict within the framework of the East-West bipolarity, thereby reactivating the worn-out cold war schemes, were a failure;
4. The just position of the Salvadoran people in their struggle prevailed.

With regard to the proposal made by the Socialist International in Panama City, the FMLN hereby states that it will be studied carefully. We will soon issue an official statement on this matter.

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT DENIES EXPELLING SALVADORAN REFUGEES

PA270459 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0152 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 26 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran Government and Justice Ministry today denied reports on the explusion of 20,000 Salvadoran refugees from Honduran territory.

Reports circulating in Costa Rica, the Caribbean and some European and South American countries indicated that refugees in Honduran border towns were being sent back to El Salvador.

"Such stories are absolutely false. Honduran reporters and foreign correspondents accredited here know it," said Government and Justice Minister Oscar Mejia Arellano. He explained that a group of 3,000 Salvadorans in the town of Colomoncagua, Lempira Department. are being relocated in special camps on Honduran territory. These camps have tents, sanitary installations and medical assistance, in addition to being in areas more accessible to convoys carrying medicine, food and clothing. Colomoncagua is located more than a day's drive over rugged terrain, almost inaccessible from any of the assistance points.

"The Salvadoran Government as well as the Salvadoran people are aware that Honduras, despite not having signed the treaty on refugees, has approximately 25,000 Salvadoran refugees in its territory who are being cared for properly," Minister Arellano said.

The Honduran Government believes there are sectors in Central America interested in creating a poor image of Honduras abroad, and points primarily to some countries within the socialist orbit which, having powerful means of communication, are engaged in such a task.

NICARAGUA

D'ESCOTO ANSWERS HAIG'S STATEMENTS ON ARMS SUPPLY

PA030238 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Mar 81

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto emphatically refuted charges by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig that Nicaragua is shipping weapons to El Salvador. Calling Haig's statements irresponsible and aggressive, the foreign minister said they are simply a continuation of the policy of threats by the United States against Nicaragua.

He added that the revolutionary government has repeatedly said it is willing to have good relations with the United States and these irresponsible accusations do not help. He also said it is the United States that must justify its policy on El Salvador to the world and that the Department of State wants to involve Nicaragua in order to justify what cannot be justified.

COMMENTARY BACKS POLITICAL SOLUTION FOR EL SALVADOR

PA270448 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Feb 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] While the gentlemen in the Pentagon are stepping up their interventionist plans for the Central American and Caribbean area and seeking economic and military support for the fascist Christian Democratic junta in El Salvador, peace forces are closing ranks against the aggressive circles in the new administration which are trying to convince the U.S. Congress of the need to increase so-called economic and military aid to the Salvadoran Government. Meanwhile, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs John Bushnell has tried to create an international situation out of what was formerly an internal conflict.

President Reagan's chief adviser, Edwin Meese, is threatening direct measures against Cuba, including a blockade, if that country does not stop supplying the Salvadoran guerrillas with weapons. However, this ocean of adventures and hostile provocations, whose consequences would be regretted by the U.S. people themselves, has promoted an antiwar propeace campaign within the United States and abroad.

All this was clear yesterday in the U.S. Congress when Democrat Clarence D. Long questioned Bushnell's statements. He said that apparently we have returned to gunboat diplomacy.

Meanwhile, former U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador Robert White, who is well informed on the inside aspects of the problem, stated emphatically that there is a contradiction in the government when it criticizes Cuba and the Soviet Union for alleged deliveries of arms to the rebels while it arms the rightist forces. These are his exact words.

White agreed with Democrat Long, who said the path followed by the Yankee Pentagon would lead to a situation similar to Vietnam's. He said we are striving to find a military solution when a political situation is needed.

Another former ambassador to El Salvador, Murat Williams, also expressed skepticism regarding the famous evidence against Cuba and other countries. The Latin American countries have always been very good at drafting documents, he said, and helping a regime which has practically no support except for that of the United States follows the Vietnam pattern.

Former Assistant Secretary of State for Humanitarian Affairs Patricia Derian was emphatic when she said that the subject of communist intervention in El Salvador is a smokescreen by the Reagan administration to cover the end to the human rights policy in that country. She said that this is an injustice to the Salvadoran people.

Another serious opinion was given by Senator Edward Kennedy, who proposed a meeting of the factions involved in the Salvadoran civil war to attain a lasting solution to the conflict, because, he added, foreign military support can divert the nature of the crisis from the essential need to find a political solution. Senator Kennedy's proposal is consistent with the policy of a peaceful solution promoted internationally by countries such as West Germany and the Soviet Union. However, the Reagan administration rejects this with various pretexts.

In this respect, the FRG Government has offered to host a meeting which could be held in March. This idea has been received favorably by many European governments. However, the opinion of the parties to the conflict remains to be heard.

This national and international offensive against the adventurous policies of the U.S. Government in Central America and the Caribbean is consistent with Kennedy's statements. He said the United States should join with its European and Latin American allies, especially Mexico, because Mexico also contends, as President Lopez Portillo said, that only a political solution to the crisis can keep it from spreading to the rest of Central America.

BORGE SAYS REVOLUTION SHOULD ADMIT ERRORS

PA010332 Paris AFP in Spanish 0224 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Text] Managua, 28 Feb (AFP)--Commander Tomas Borge, interior minister, here today said that "it is time to stop blaming the Somozist past and for the Nicaraguan revolution to start admitting its errors."

Speaking at the dedication ceremony of projects of Managua's reconstruction, Borge attacked the poor transportation system and distribution of medicines, as two of the deficiencies the revolution has not been able to correct.

Borge, considered one of the most influential personalities of the revolution, from his Interior Ministry invited the other [words indistinct] "to visit the various districts of the cities so that they may really learn what the people think."

Adding to the criticism of the higher revolutionary levels, Borge said, in commenting about the deficiencies of the transportation system, that to solve them, it may be convenient to sell "all the costly automobiles circulating around."

Nicaragua's political opposition has been criticizing the use of expensive vehicles by the commanders of the revolution, who claim in their defense that they are using these automobiles because that was what they found left by Somozism, and not because of personal vanity.

Apparently starting a new fashion of self-criticism for the revolutionary leadership, Borge remembered that the health of the people has the same high priority than the defense of the nation, but noted that "the defense cannot be carried out in poor health."

Borge criticized "the slowness and hesitation with which some officials have attended the preparation of a basic list of medicines required by the people."

"As a result of that attitude," he said, "the people are being deceived because they have to use, by virtue of a systematic propaganda, many medicines that have no real effect on their ailments."

BORGE EXHORTS CDS TO EXERCISE ROLE; WARNS LA PRENSA

PA272257 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] The Sandinist Defense Committees [CDS] will again be the main organizations in the struggle for the defense of our revolution. All the powers that the CDS has up to a few months ago will be restored, as they are the eyes and ears of this revolutionary process. These were some of the most important announcements made by Revolution Commander Tomas Borge Martinez at the auditorium of the Camilo Ortega Saavedra Civic Center yesterday.

The interior minister stressed that the CDS were created primarily to defend the revolution. After seriously criticizing the CDS, Borge urged them to occupy their true position in the struggle. He noted that for example, the CDS should have their own strength and autonomy in order to make decisions without having to receive suggestions. Borge emphasized that the people cannot be an uninvolved crowd, adding that they must be more critical and point out mistakes, no matter who makes them, because one of the greatest faults of a revolutionary is not to point out mistakes.

The CDS are the foundation of the people's power. The CDS and the other mass organizations must respond to the economic blackmail and attacks of the reactionaries and the Yankee imperialism, he noted.

Borge also said yesterday that the slanderous statements by the newspaper LA PRENSA are going to exceed the limits of our patience. He made these statements within the framework of a political event to commemorate the third anniversary of the death of Commander Camilo Ortega Saavedra, who was killed in action during the first uprising in Monimbo, Masaya. Borge added that the owners of this newspaper are distorting the news to support every counterrevolutionary action and destabilize the revolutionary process.

After warning that the LA PRENSA owners are becoming involved in something very serious, he cited the examples of two articles published on the front page of yesterday's issue under the following headings: "Cuban Ordered the Shooting in Prinzapolka," and "The FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] Ordered Fagot To Be Infiltrated." These two news reports refer to the latest incidents in the Atlantic coast where nine persons were killed.

Borge quoted the first paragraph of one of these reports as an example. This paragraph said: The Cuban asked: What are you waiting for? If that is him kill him. The militiamen fired and the brigadist and others fell to the ground inside the church. There were many wounded.

In studying this report, Borge added, it is now said that Moravian Bishop Joseph Wilson--who according to the paper confirmed these facts--was making the statements as an account he received from another person. However, Borge said, the statements made by a direct eyewitness were discarded by LA PRENSA which described them as confusing.

Borge then said: [Begin recording] But there is something else. Fagot had a separatist plan. He wanted to separate the Atlantic coast from the rest of the country. This was not only a counterrevolutionary but an antipatriotic plan, a plan aimed at dismembering the country. This is an action which is severely punished anywhere in the world. He would have been executed in places where the death penalty exists. Why are they going to dismember the country? To make the Atlantic coast an independent republic? Or to deliver it to imperialism? How are they going to maintain that independence? With what strength? What they want to do in reality is to convert the Atlantic coast into a foreign province. What they want to do in reality is to deliver the Atlantic coast to the reactionaries and the counterrevolutionaries. This is the reason they are getting great praises from the former Somozist guardsmen, and this newspaper joins this maneuver to lessen the seriousness of this action.

In practice, LA PRENSA is becoming an accomplice of a separatist attitude which betrays the interests of this nation and people. It is much more serious than they are leading everyone to believe. They are becoming involved in something terribly serious and we want to warn about it. This brilliant page of this newspaper--this is the first time I speak about it because I have been very careful--is going to pass the limits of our patience. The cup of our patience runneth over. I believe that the legal capacity now in the hands of the Interior Ministry to control the media must be improved. [applause] [end recording]

JUNTA ISSUES COMMUNIQUE CRITICIZING LA PRENSA

PA280455 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Junta of the Provisional Government of National Reconstruction on 27 February 1981; read by Emilio Baltodano Cantarego, minister-secretary of the Secretariat of the junta--live]

[Text] On 26 February, the daily LA PRENSA made a scandalous and false report under the headline: "Cuban Ordered the Shooting in Prinzapolka."

The information not only distorted the facts, about which the government has already offered an extensive explanation along with the testimony of eyewitnesses, it also endangers the physical integrity and security of the Cuban teachers and medics dedicated to their internationalist work in many communities on the Atlantic coast.

The governing junta asked the daily LA PRENSA for an immediate clarification of the false and slanderous report. Its director admitted that the report was faulty and promised to publish a clarification.

In today's edition, instead of admitting the false nature of the report, LA PRENSA makes the issue even more confusing. After recognizing that two members of the governing junta had reported the story as false, LA PRENSA adds that the story is in fact just another of a series circulated in our midst, thereby detracting from the authority and seriousness of the statements of the two members of the junta.

The daily LA PRENSA persists in its negative attitude in getting around the facts, implying a [word indistinct] participation of a Cuban citizen in the Prinzapolka events, something which the government has categorically denied. The government strongly affirms that on that occasion, members of our armed forces were victims of a treacherous attack which resulted in the murder of a courageous and humble soldier of the people.

The Cuban internationalists, who from the beginning of the revolution have been working in our country, have shown a spirit of sacrifice and dedication in their tasks, under the most difficult living conditions, without expecting reward or even getting a salary. Those on the Atlantic coast do not have the least bit of protection from any aggression that could be triggered by this type of false charges, such as those of the daily LA PRENSA.

Already, some members of the news media have encouraged a hostile attitude against the Cuban teachers and medics who are working in the Atlantic sector and for whom the Junta of the National Reconstruction Government has only gratitude for their voluntary work for the benefit of our people.

The freedom of the press guaranteed by the revolution cannot serve to encourage slanders and lies and, within that same freedom of the press, there must exist the courage and honesty necessary to correct any false information which may harm the reputation of the country, the revolution, the countries cooperating with our revolution, and the persons involved. Otherwise, there would be a violation of the respect of others without which there cannot be any freedom of the press.

ORTEGA BERATES ATLANTIC COAST SEPARATISTS IN MONIMBO

PA270500 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] Speaking on behalf of the government junta and the National Directorate of the Sandinist Front, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra said those who had the courage to assassinate the state security members in Prinzapolka never had the courage to even insult the genocidal Somozist guard. Commander Ortega was the main speaker at the event marking the third anniversary of the popular insurrection of Monimbo in 1978. Here is an excerpt of his speech:

[Begin recording] Our companeros went to capture some divisionist and provocateur elements linked to the previous regime. They approached them to persuade them to surrender, but instead they killed our companeros. But those criminals and cowards never showed enough bravery even to say a bad word against the criminal guardsmen who oppressed Nicaragua during the time of Somoza's dictatorship.

During those times they did not dare support the people's struggle. It was other men who supported the struggle--the most conscious Miskitos, the most conscious blacks, the most conscious Nicaraguans, the most conscious residents of the Atlantic region were the ones who supported the revolutionary struggle. Instead of saying Misurasata is Nicaragua and is in Nicaragua, those who are trying to divide Nicaragua want to make Misurasata something alien to Nicaragua. They want to establish a separate country in the Atlantic region. This is what we have fought and this is what we are fighting.

Slander compaigns have begun against the efforts we are making. They want to portray as a victim that agent of the Somozist security office who was a leader of Misurasata, who was its representative in the State Council and who has now been arrested by the people's forces. [end recording]

COSEP-INDE PRESIDENT PRESENTS 1980 ECONOMIC REPORT

PA270456 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Feb 81

[Report by Enrique Dreyfuss, president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise [COSEP] and of the National Development Institute [INDE] during annual meeting of the National Development Institute in Managua--live]

[Text] On 14 June 1980 I was in charge of delivering the closing speech at the Central American Business Administration Institute [INCAE] 12th graduation ceremony. On that occasion I stressed the need for Central American business to be involved in the problems of the area. In November we were invited to give a lecture [words indistinct]. We clearly explained the country's economic problems and warned against the possibility of not fulfilling the 1980 plan. Those speeches were given quite a bit of publicity and served to give the citizens and private sectors some general idea of the situation.

In February, and then in June, an INDE/COSEP commission went to the United States to seek support from the U.S. Congress for the approval of the $75 million loan. In July of the same year we attended the summit meeting of Venezuelan private enterprise and had the opportunity to hold a long talk with President Luis Herrera Campins and top government officials. We also visited Costa Rica, where we talked to representatives of the private sectors and with President Rodrigo Carazo Odio. In August we met in Mexico with representatives of the Inter-American Council of Commerce and Production [IACCP], who requested the incorporation of INDE into that important organization of the private sector of the continent. On approximately the same date we were invited to join the International Private Enterprise Organization headquartered in Geneva.

Another Nicaraguan private enterprise delegation went to Peru and Ecuador to meet with private and public sectors in those countries. In November, our executive secretary participated as a lecturer in the convention of Central American and Caribbean businessmen in Miami. It is important to mention here that we speak in Nicaragua with the same honesty that we do abroad. [applause]

The results of these visits have been positive. Among other things, we have helped to explain our position in the revolutionary process and we have also managed to obtain funds we need so badly for the country's reconstruction. It is worth mentioning that our Executive Council has held talks here with members of the congresses of the FRG, the United States, Peru and Venezuela and with ambassadors of American and European countries. We have received in our offices here representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the Investment Fund of Venezuela and leaders of political parties and other international organizations. We have talked to newsmen and representatives from 27 countries.

The views of the Nicaraguan private sector have been published frequently by international news media, and the name of our institution and its views have been published in the most important magazines and newspapers of the world. Our message to these people has been clear and precise: We are part of the revolution and we need financial support for the country's reconstruction. We are, however, opposed to the detours in the process which have created a division in the much-needed national unity. [applause]

We are and will continue working to rescue the revolution because we want to correct this situation. Here in Nicaragua we have been constantly consulting the democratic parties and independent workers federations. We have been in touch constantly. We want to mention here today the magnificent job done by each of our branches in the departments. In various parts of the country members of private sectors organized under INDE have been constantly meeting to analyze the problems of their region. These branches are the bases of our organization. They played an important role in 1980, and their representatives on our executive council have every week been presenting the problems they have and the difficulties they are encountering in the economic reactivation of their respective departments.

This is what gives INDE national significance. In order to keep in touch with all its members during 1980, a total of 43 bulletins were issued. We published the 43 bulletins under the title "Private Initiative in the Revolution." In 1980 the collection was printed four times and distributed, not only among its members but throughout the country, and it has contributed to presenting INDE's views regarding the country's problems.

In 1980 INDE gave its full and unconditional support to the process. Because of its nonsectarian structure, INDE's president is also the president of COSEP, a position I hold with great pride. INDE has supported the chambers in their communiques on the nation's problems. INDE cooperated in drafting COSEP's document, "Analysis of the Implementation of the Government Program of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction," which clearly establishes the position of private enterprise regarding the sidetracking by the revolutionary process.

We are going to analyze objectively the advances made by our revolutionary process in the economic, social, moral and political aspects.

In the economic aspect we wish to report with deep concern that the goals established for the 1980 economic reactivation plan have not been fulfilled totally. Production in general did not reach the levels expected by the government. If these goals were conservative for 1980, we are up against a national economy of survival, far from the needs of a country which has to rebuild the damages left by the war, increase the internal gross income, which was 7 percent less than in 1978 and 25 percent less than in 1979, and meet the needs of the population.

Analyzing exports in 1980, we can say that agriculture, livestock and industrial traditional products, which are the main source of income, did not reach the total amounts for export expected in the 1980 plan. In 1980, the export program was estimated at $524 million, but it only reached $475 million. Despite the positive price increase at the beginning of 1980, the main export goods, such as sugar, meat and cotton, reported export levels below what was expected.

The drop in production during 1979-80 period had negative effects on the level of export of those products. Only coffee exports lived up to expectations.

The industrial sector also did not reach levels programmed in the 1980 plan. Manufacturing activities for metal products, timber, chemicals, textiles and other industrial products registered a drop of 35 percent less than was expected in the plan. Compared to 1978, the drop was 50 percent. Only in the field of clothing, foodstuffs and drinks has there been acceptable production due to internal demand. But these products do not have any importance for our foreign trade and therefore are not sources of foreign income.

In summary, we can say that the industrial sector suffered a drop in production due to problems with the workers, absenteeism, slow work, low productivity, lack of foreign income, deterioration of management authority and lack of incentives.

On the other hand, in 1980 we imported approximately $780 million, f.o.b. price, or some $100 million above what the plan had programmed. Not meeting the export goal and a considerable increase in imports resulted in a deficit in the commercial balance above $300 million. This deficit is far over the government's estimate of $176 million.

The construction industry, mostly handled by private enterprise, did not receive the investment that was expected. The estimate is that by the end of the year only 600 million cordobas were invested, while the plan called for 1.5 billion. This can be corroborated by the fact that of the 15,000 new jobs expected in the construction industry, only 5,000 were reported.

Regarding basic grains, we are up against a very serious problem. The increase in consumption has forced the government to increase grain imports, with negative results for our commercial balance, which is getting worse because beans and rice production was below the estimate while sorghum and corn were above what had been programmed. If we do not increase basic grain production we are going to be in a difficult position and we will have to continue importing to meet the people's demand.

We must point out the economic and social problem of unemployment. Although the government's figures say employment in 1980 was 112,300 new jobs, 18.2 percent better than expected, we feel the government's figures clearly indicate that of those new jobs, only 52 percent were engaged in sectors of production and the remaining 48 percent were hired by commerce and services, which are sectors in which manpower does not contribute to increasing the country's production, and they are part of an already enormous bureaucracy which is very costly to the state and which encourages inefficiency.

Based on the figures we have given regarding our exportations, the creation of new jobs, the rate of investments and the trend in the economic activity, which are considered priority for the country's reactivation, we must admit that the results in important areas of our economy were below from what was expected.

Another matter of concern is the fiscal imbalance and the 1980 budget disbursement. Using the government's figures, we must point out that current expenses or payment of the bureaucracy increased by 1.1 billion cordobas, while capital expenses and investments were reduced by approximately 600 million cordobas. This shows that the government's expenditure policy in 1980 of increasing current expenses and reducing investments has not been the healthiest way to accelerate the process of reactivation the country so badly needs.

Regarding fiscal income, this was 1.2 billion cordobas above what was expected, figures we consider very positive. However, capital income from foreign loans was 1 billion cordobas below what had been estimated. This resulted in a net deficit in the budget of 800 million cordobas, far above the 312 million that had been estimated in the plan.

To compensate for the deficit, the Central Bank has had to grant loans to the government, loans that are above the total financial program established, thus forcing the Central Bank to resort to short-term debts, which is very serious because they will have to be paid soon, thus affecting our availability of foreign income for 1981.

In summary, all this is the result of a lack of financial discipline, a lack of control, a lack of administrative coordination, of an enormous bureaucracy, a lack of experience, a lack of a realistic outlook of production problems and a lack of productivity--of a government in the process of reconstructing a country. Although there are some positive aspects of the economy as compared to 1979, there are many more negative aspects affecting our economy in 1980, such as low productivity, an exaggerated deficit of our commercial balance, the delay in obtaining foreign aid and the burden of the foreign debt interests added to short-term indebtedness. All this has resulted in a budget deficit of more than $120 million, as compared to the $28 million that was estimated in the 1980 plan.

All this proves that we have been living in 1980 on a subsidized economy in which despite accumulated donations for the amount of $190 million, production and productivity still have not reached the goals required to solve the inflationary problems and the budget deficit and at the same time to meet the economic and social aspirations of the revolution.

If in 1980 we had a subsidized economy, in 1981 our economy will be of survival. The outlook for 1981 is not very optimistic. The drop in the price of coffee, the contradiction between domestic demand and [words indistinct] is a reality [words indistinct]. The slow reactivation of industrial exports, and the harvest problems faced by exportable products could possibly interfere in the export goal estimated at $700 million for the 1981 plan. On the other hand, oil imports, estimated at $200 million, the need for raw material for production, the need for more spare parts, machinery and equipment and the obstacles to reducing and controlling the import of consumer goods to desired levels will result in a deficit in the commercial balance of more than $200 million, which, added to the foreign loan interests, could easily lead to an unprecedented deficit in the history of our country.

In order to face this situation, the government will definitely have to continue using foreign aid, which is becoming more scarce each day, to try to balance the financial imbalance of [words indistinct]. Although the government is going to try to rationalize the 1981 budget, it should be expected that government institutions are going to exert administrative pressure to maintain their budget. This could bring current expenses to more than 8.5 billion cordobas in the new budget, and considering that incomes are not increasing in the proportion expected due to the country's economic stagnation, the fiscal deficit for the current year will be considerably higher than the deficit of 1980.

Undoubtedly we will have to depend this year on foreign long-term loans [words indistinct] in order to face the economic imbalance of our economy. However, unless these funds are handled properly, based on a truly independent policy, the goals programmed for 1981 will be hard to achieve. The most adequate measures the government has implemented for 1981--the rationalization of public expenditures, control on imports, the search for new markets, investments in social sectors, incentives for production and others--will not suffice to improve the reactivation of the productive sector unless the level of efficiency and productivity of state enterprise is improved and unless there is an atmosphere of peace and unity required by the private sector at this time. The private sector's participation is necessary at this time if we wish to improve the country's social and economic situation. [applause]

We have analyzed the economic aspect; we will now analyze the social aspect. We have conducted long-term social programs to benefit our masses. The literacy campaign is a worthy example. However, 18 months after the victory, many of the things we hoped for from the revolution are not being achieved. In the public health and social security areas there has been a general deterioration in the quality of services in hospitals and medical centers. There has also been a shortage of medicine. In the transportation area, the people still do not have safe and efficient bus service. Housing programs are being carried out slowly, thereby worsening our housing problems. The people's situation in the last few months has been increasingly serious. We need a greater effort in the building of access roads so that part of our production of basic grains and export products like coffee, will not be lost as in previous years.

Now, 18 months after victory, we should be tackling health and housing problems more firmly. The private sector wants to contribute to improving the Nicaraguans' standard of living. This can only be achieved through increased production and better productivity, and allowing others to help us [words indistinct] in which Nicaraguans would be the sole losers and our capacity of self-determination would be destroyed. [applause]

Nicaraguan foreign policy should serve the interests of all Nicaraguans. [Words indistinct] in favor of foreign aid, for the defense of our sovereignty, not committing us with anyone, and at the same time giving us the opportunity of concentrating 100 percent of our efforts in the economic reconstruction of this poor country. [applause]

We have analyzed the country's economic and social situation. We have seen how, according to our experts, the economy is deteriorating instead of improving. With regard to morale, we are concerned over the hate existing among Nicaraguan brothers. Words become insults [words indistinct] and above all the moral decay of our people who fought to recover their true value. We can see how crime is increasing. We are concerned over the increasing number of holdups and robberies. Above all, however, we are saddened that instead of uniting to uplift our country, we are growing more divided every day. [applause]

Class struggle has become hatred between classes. The song of unity of 19 July has turned into incriminating, accusing, crazy and inhuman shouts. Over radio and television we see that some of our leaders, instead of condemning torture, condone and glorify violence. With their words they are inciting deeds which perhaps not even they will be able to control. [applause]

In the past few weeks we have seen in the private sector a [words indistinct] deterioration in the climate of peace and harmony that should exist among the Nicaraguan people. There has been harassment against institutions and laws. On occasion, legal sophistry is used to evade laws, and the famous "so forth" of fecrees 511 and 512 are being applied continuously to repress [words indistinct] and to silence whoever is not in agreement with the government, [applause] thus restricting the freedom of speech that all the Nicaraguans conquered in the struggle against Somoza.

The ghost of the past is once again around. The sad memories of repression, mobs, harassment, shouts, incriminations and threats are once again appearing in our political life. [applause]

To summarize: We are on the verge of a geopolitical crisis, economic stagnation, moral decomposition and social anarchy. This is why, today more than ever, on behalf of INDE, I ask all the political parties, labor unions, the government, the church and the private sector to think very carefully and patriotically so that for the sake of the highest interests of the fatherland, we pause and, with the maturity that characterizes us, thoughtfully study and decide on the path that our dear Nicaragua will follow.

This is the moment for recovering the true values that served as basis for this revolution. This is the moment for recovering the revolution; this is the moment for careful thought and self-analysis; this is the moment of the fatherland. The private sector, aware of its responsibilities, after having studied the problems affecting us, is prepared to join efforts with various sectors to truly initiate the economic, moral and social reconstruction that this country urgently needs.

[Words indistinct] to the government and to the governed, to make a stop, to think carefully, to have love, unity and concord among brothers prevail. Unity gave us victory. If we don't think carefully today, our children will make the people and the government responsible for having placed party interests [words indistinct] ahead of the interests of Nicaragua. [applause]

The situation abroad, the economy and the moral and social situation cannot remain as it is, because if it does, we will face a long and dark night, and the big loser will be the Nicaraguan people.

We must think carefully. With Nicaragua yesterday, today and always. [applause]

R. CASTRO DOES VOLUNTEER WORK, NOTES U.S. ACTIONS

FL021348 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 2 Mar 81

[Text] Army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR), yesterday participated in volunteer potato harvesting as part of our people's activities of tribute to International Women's Day. The FAR minister worked all morning picking potatoes in the company of Vilma Espin, alternate member of the party Politburo and president of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), and a large group of members of the FMC national directorate, students of the Fe del Valle FMC cadres school and of the Regional Center for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Women's International Democratic Federation.

The second secretary of our party and many of his companions had completed their assigned quota of 25 bags of potatoes by 1100. He referred to the success of the productive work which resulted in 3,300 bags of potatoes harvested.

Once the work in the fields was completed, reporters of the newspaper GRANMA approached the FAR minister and asked him about the latest aggressive statements made by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

Yes, Raul said, they are going around howling like wolves with a group of warships near the eastern region [of Cuba], including aircraft carriers like the America and Nimitz--the latter with nuclear propulsion and currently at the Yankee Guantanamo Base which it last entered at 0640 on 28 February.

The FAR minister pointed out that the spy planes SR-71 and RC-135 are flying around Cuba. He emphasized that such wolf howling sometimes takes the form of ships, the form of planes, the form of Florida's governor and also of a secretary of state who is the one howling the most, apparently because he is disgusted with the secondary role to which he has been assigned by Reagan who has assigned the principal foreign policy role to Richard Allen, presidential adviser for national security affairs.

He said that in addition to this, they have sent the former general and CIA official, Walters, to Latin America on a special mission seeking support for their interventionist plans in El Salvador and Central America. The results have been a failure, just as occurred with Reagan's special envoy to Western Europe, Lawrence Eagleburger. All this shows and demonstrates, Raul asserted, that not even their own allies want to be dragged by the empire into this warmongering and foolish escalation. It shows that the problems of the world, much less those of the United States of which there are many, cannot be solved that way. It shows that the world's people and countries, aside from their social systems, want and need peace.

He went on to comment on the fact that the warmongering escalation of the U.S. rulers has also been criticized in the United States itself by members of the congress, social organizations and even by the former ambassador to El Salvador, Robert White, whom no one would dare accuse of being influenced by the Soviet Union or by Cuba.

This U.S. diplomat, asserted the FAR minister, according to a capitalist news agency report, recently stated during an appearance before a U.S. House of Representatives committee that a U.S. military commitment in El Salvador would be a grave mistake; and another former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, Murat Williams, who was in that country from 1961 to 1964, went even farther by saying that the current situation is similar to the initial phases in Vietnam.

When the FAR minister was asked the status of our FAR in the face of this situation, he answered sharply: like a clock.

The talk then turned to the territorial militia troops. He said their organization is going magnificently.

Of course, they still do not have the exactitude of a clock, but they are being organized in an accelerated manner throughout the country. Thousands of small units are being formed simultaneously until they become hundreds of combat regiments in coming weeks.

He then said that a modest representation of the territorial militia troops will be seen in all provincial capitals, particularly in the country's capital, on the occasion of 1 May. He added that at the same time, thousands of officers are being trained for the territorial militia at all the military schools--including the Maximo Gomez Academy--and at three divisions that have been turned into schools.

Answering another question of the GRANMA reporter, the minister emphasized: Look how concerned we are: In addition to Fidel being in the Soviet Union, I have left the FAR ministry to come to this day of volunteer potato harvesting work as part of the tribute to International Women's Day. We are here near Alquizar and as you can see, we can hear over the loud speakers the ceremony marking the Light Industry Worker's Day being held at Alquitex, one of the country's most outstanding textile enterprises. All the people are working from one corner of the country to the other and are fulfilling their daily anonymous feats.

The party second secretary also referred to the 26th CPSU Congress and Fidel's presence at the great meeting of Soviet communists where once again, he said, we have received deep demonstrations of solidarity. That congress, he emphasized, has been a complete success where there has been talk of creative work and solid proposals in the struggle for peace have been made. Fidel's words were received with much affection and, in general, the CPSU Congress reflects how much the building of socialism and communism is advancing and being strengthened.

Returning to the other subject, the FAR minister asserted that despite the howling of wolves, we are carrying out the best organized and most efficient sugar harvest in our history. The grinding rate is high and stable and it shows a cumulative rate of more than 90 percent of the potential grinding rate, yields are growing and thousands of caballerias are being prepared for the big spring planting.

He added that intensive work also is being done on the tobacco harvest in which it seems possible that all production and quality records can be broken. He emphasized that young students are making a great productive effort in that harvest.

All this, Raul said, represents a call for life, a call for the future for which we will never cease to work regardless how much the Washington wolves howl.

CUBA OBSERVES GDR ARMY DAY WITH CEREMONIES

FL271721 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1502 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] The New German Army, founded in view of the threat of imperialist aggression, has a rich patriotic history. Today it is a modern and powerful army capable of turning back the aggressions of its enemies and inflicting on them crushing defeats.

This was said by Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, in speaking at the ceremony to mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the GDR's National People's Army held in Havana. The first deputy minister of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] and chief of the General Staff said that the GDR's National People's Army is the historic sum of all the progressive traditions of the German people. He stressed how their troops are trained in the best traditions of struggle forged from the peasant wars of 1524-1525 down through our days.

Division General Casas Regueiro noted how the Soviet Army helped the German people to free themselves from fascism.

He said that the people's army increasingly strengthens its comradeship in arms with the Soviet Armed Forces and other socialist armies, faithful to the motto "class brothers, comrades in arms, invincible together." Referring to the struggles of our people, he said that the ties of friendship grow stronger in the common struggle against imperialism and reaction.

The chief of the General Staff also said that the ties of friendship grow stronger as well in the many-sided tasks involved in building socialism and proletarian internationalism.

Col Horst Dieckling, the military, air and naval attache of the GDR embassy in Cuba, made the closing speech. He said that the nature and tasks of the National People's Army were and are guided by the essence of the socialist system by which the objectives of building socialism and communism go hand in hand. Colonel Dieckling said that the National People's Army, under the direction of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, is predicated on the ties and trust of the masses and the close comradeship in arms with the Soviet Armed Forces and other socialist armies. Lastly, he extended best wishes for success to the Cuban people in fulfilling their goals.

HAVANA NOTES SENATOR'S 'RIDICULOUS ACCUSATIONS'

FL021214 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Mar 81

[Text] Irritated by the failure of its efforts to get support for an eventual direct U.S. military intervention in El Salvador, U.S. reaction has used one of its better known reactionaries, Senator Jessie Helms, to repeat ridiculous accusations against Cuba and Nicaragua and to request a total blockade against our country. At a television appearance. Helms used the already worn out pretext of alleged Cuban supply of arms to Salvadoran guerrillas to demand military actions against the first socialist country in this hemisphere. At the same time, he announced that the government of Ronald Reagan already has decided to definitely break its commitments to Sandinist Nicaragua. Helms, a well-known racist, has amassed a considerable personal fortune during his terms as senator from the state of North Carolina.

NICARAGUAN HEALTH MINISTER GUIDO VISITS CTC

FL280137 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Text] Nicaraguan Health Minister Lea Guido and the delegation she heads today visited the National Committee of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, CTC, where they were received by Dr Adolfo Valdivia, member of the party Central Committee and secretary general of the Health Workers Trade Union. The Nicaraguan delegation was accompanied by Dr Sergio del Valle, member of the party Politburo and minister of public health. At the meeting, Dr Valdivia briefed the visitors on the emulation and microemulation applied in the health sector and on other trade union matters.

MEXICAN NAVAL SECRETARY ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL022251 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 2 Mar 81

[Text] Army Gen Raul Castro, first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, FAR, has received in this capital Adm Ricardo Chazaro Lara, secretary of the navy of the United Mexican States. Chazaro, who traveled to Cuba on an official visit at the invitation of Army Gen Raul Castro, was rendered the honors corresponding to his high rank by a garrison of the city of Havana, ground troops and a unit of the revolutionary navy. FAR deputy ministers. Division Generals Abelardo Colome Ibarra and Senen Casas, chief of the General Staff; Vice Adm Aldo Santamaria, chief of the revolutionary navy; and other high officers also welcomed Admiral Chazaro Lara.

CARICOM LEADER URGES DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES

FL261735 Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Feb 81 p 20

[Text] Deputy secretary general of CARICOM, Roderick Rainford, has said that on technological issues there is the ever present danger of trying to construct the world in the form of the rich nations. In addition in their interactions in terms of obtaining technology, poor nations may interact continuously with the technology generating centres without the development of any technological capacity of their own, he said.

He was delivering the second feature address on the seminar of technology transfer and management being held at the Pegasus Hotel under the auspicies on the technology transfer unit and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation.

The CARICOM official said that often the educated Third World man was involved in technology transactions based on the issues experienced in developed countries and which might be destructive to his own environment. He said that the time had come to go back to first principles as it was incumbent on technology planners at this time to step out of the confusing maze of present practices.

"But while this must be done it does not suggest that there should be a complete withdrawal from the traditional training areas in the developed countries of the world."

"Instead the challenge is for us to free ourselves from the shackles of trying to operate like the developed countries and master the situation rather than being mastered by it, while adapting them to the particular needs of the environment", he said.

Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana and Chairman of the NSRC Dr Dennis Irvine said that no country could be totally self-reliant in science and technology but while this was so any form adopted in a country must be initiated from within.

Technology policy could not stand alone and it must be subordinated to economic and social objectives and policy, he said. The UNDP representative to Guyana Assefa Frehewitt, affirmed the commitment of the UN to self-reliance in science and technology and also noted their commitment to the removal of barriers from effective technology transfer.

And UNIDO representative who is attending the seminar, Mr Tanaka, pledged further support to the programmes while noting that such plans would help to develop human resources, establishment of the necessary infrastructure and the drawing up of plans and implementing them on the field of technology transfer. He pledged full support in the new areas of development as well as those that are already being looked at, including mini-hydropower programmes, project for formulation and packaging of agrichemicals, a consultancy development programme with Guystac among others.

BAHAMAS

PINDLING DISCUSSES PROBLEM OF HAITIAN IMMIGRANTS

FL021425 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 2 Mar 81

[Excerpt] During his recent official state visit to Mexico, Prime Minister the Right Honorable Lynden O. Pindling held a news conference at which time he answered questions from the press on both international and domestic issues. On one domestic issue, he was asked if the Haitian problem currently being experienced in the Bahamas was discussed with Mexican officials. This was the prime minister's response:

[Begin recording] The discussions held here in Mexico City did not touch on any question of illegal immigrants in general or on our particular problem with Haitian illegal immigrants in particular. The efforts of the Bahamas in securing domestically and internationally will continue until we can arrive at a reasonable solution to that particular problem. [sentence as heard] The problem as it now stands could pose both an economic test and an international security test. But it will be managed by the Bahamas to the best of its abilities and its resources and in as humane a manner as possible. [end recording]

During that visit by the prime minister, high-level discussions for (?tourism) exchanges between the Bahamas and Mexico were discussed by Bahamian and Mexican officials.

DOMINICA

PRIME MINISTER REPORTS SURVEILLANCE OF GROUPS

FL021625 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Feb 81 p 3

[Excerpt] Roseau, Dominica, Friday, (CANA)--Prime Minister Mary Eugenia Charles yesterday warned drug pushers and discontented politicians backing terrorists here that authorities will move against them.

Miss Charles was speaking in a radio broadcast, exactly 1 week after the kidnapping of prominent farmer Ted Honychurch by armed men who clashed with police in the village of Giraduel 6 miles south of here last Wednesday. He is still in captivity.

The long-haired Rastafarian cultists known here as "Dreads", are demanding an end to alleged police harassment, an enquiry into the shootout with police and release of three of their colleagues from prison--two on death row--but government has refused to negotiate under duress.

Miss Charles yesterday said that the authorities have been monitoring development in Dominica for several months and found a specific pattern emerging.

"The action is on two levels, one is political and the other geared towards the protection of the marijuana trade", she said.

Both levels "involved people in the higher brackets of society, who in turn are using, aiding and abetting certain Rastafarians, disgruntled political stooges and hardened criminals," she said.

But the prime minister made it clear that the activities of both groups were being monitored.

"The evidence and information are coming in and are being pieced together, so that the forces of law and order know when and where to take action," Miss Charles added.

GOVERNMENT PASSES NEW EMERGENCY POWER MEASURES

FL021630 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Feb 81 p 1

[Excerpts] Roseau, Dominica, Friday, (CANA)--The Dominica Government has passed new measures under the emergency powers ordinance, monitoring the flow of news and information published or broadcast in Dominica or sent for publication outside the country.

According to the regulations: "No person residing in Dominica shall publish or broadcast in Dominica or send for publication or broadcasting in any place outside Dominica any news or information which is calculated to or likely to prejudice public safety or public order."

"The text of any news or information so intended for publication or broadcast shall be submitted to the secretary to the cabinet who shall allow the publication or broadcast if satisfied that the requirements of public safety or public order in Dominica will not be contravened or prejudiced and shall otherwise make such alternations thereto as to bring it into conformity with the provisions of this regulation."

The new regulations empower the president by writing under his hand directed to the commissioner of police to "impose on any person any restriction in respect of his place of residence and in respect of his association or communication with other persons."

It also "prohibits any person from traveling except in accordance with permission given by such authority or person as may be specified".

The regulations will remain in force until the expiration of the state of emergency or unless sooner determined by proclamation by the president in accordance with the constitution.

S. KOREA OFFERS AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

FL272345 St George's Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] South Korea's ambassador to Dominica, Yi Kyu-hyon, says his country will [words indistinct] cooperation with that island, especially in agricultural development. The Canadian-based diplomat told reporters in the Dominican capital, Roseau, that South Korea intends to invite agricultural trainees to his homeland to get an idea of what fields of cooperation were available.

Mr Yi also said his country plans to have Korean Government and business officials visit Dominica, but he did not say how soon such visits will be arranged. He further pointed out that his government was studying the possibility of Korean private sector companies setting up joint ventures in Dominica.

GRENADA

BISHOP WARNS OF DANGERS THREATENING HIS COUNTRY

FL030007 St George's Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 2 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Speaking against the background of the increasing dangers in the world, Prime Minister Bishop said that the maneuvers of imperialism in the region are indicative of it. Prime Minister Bishop was at the time addressing the CPE [expansion unknown] rally. He said the people of Grenada must show the world that they are willing to die to defend their revolution.

[Begin Bishop recording] That is why it is necessary that (?we convene to the park) on the 13th of March, 2 weeks from now. We must make absolutely sure that the crowd this year is not only the same size like last year but even bigger. We have to make sure this year that on that day, the 13th of March, we give a loud and a clear message and response to all those people out there who might be thinking of attacking our country. They must see the unity of our people. They must see our strength. They must see our determination. They must see our courage. They must see our confidence. They must see our willingness to face the future regardless of the consequences, to stand up on our feet and be counted in the world. [applause] [end recording]

BURNHAM APPEALS FOR SERIOUSNESS, COMMITMENT

FL021715 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 24 Feb 81 p 3

[Excerpts] Georgetown, Guyana, Tuesday (CANA)--President Forbes Burnham, addressing the nation as Guyana entered its 12th year as a republic at midnight, appealed for "seriousness and commitment at all levels" to pull the country out of its economic doldrums.

The appeal was the central theme of his speech, broadcast by the state radio from the ceremonial midnight flag-raising ceremony at the open air national park here.

"Comrades, the alternative to production is going on an international pilgrimage with begging bowl in hand and being subjected to the slings, arrows and insults of outrageous poverty," Mr Burnham declared.

He added: "As the economies of several of the rich and developed countries in the world enter a period of recession many of them are reducing the quantum of aid to the developing countries.

"Some of them contend that since they historically are not former colonial powers they do not owe a debt of conscience to ex-colonies," he said and noted:

"In the meantime, almost without exception the wealthy industrialized nations have been, and plan to continue, increasing their expenditure on arms, therefore, as it appears now, there is one other real reason for international economic aid being reduced."

He argued that the answer "lies in the developing countries combining their resources and energies, increasing trade and technology exchanges between themselves, and at the same time bargaining from a position of strength for better terms of trade with the developed world."

"All of this, however, means that the developing states must seek to be self-reliant nationally, regionally and internationally. We cannot bargain from a position of dependence," Mr Burnham said.

He called on the nation to let this philosophy of self-reliance continue "to inspire our plans for development and for a better life for all."

He said that Guyana will "negotiate" aid, credits and consortia where needed from abroad, but reiterated that all such arrangements "must be arrived at in the context of Guyanese controlling the Guyanese economy for Guyanese."

He also declared that it "is not enough to repeat parrot-like the phrase production and productivity. Steps must be taken to ensure that the objectives which they connote are achieved. If these are not taken, then our rising expectations will be disappointed and Guyana will remain a poor and underdeveloped country in spite of its vast resources."

The president said that in all the circumstances "especially considering the fact of a negative growth rate in 1979, the projected growth of 7.9 per cent in 1981 is modest and realistic." (The state has said the economy grew in real terms by 2 percent last year).

MINISTER SUPPORTS CUBA'S CHAIRING NONALIGNED

PA012129 Paris AFP in Spanish 1912 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Text] Georgetown, 28 Feb (AFP)--Guyana considers that Cuba is a nonaligned country and wants it to continue to hold the presidency of that movement of nations until its term expires in September of 1981, Guyanese Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson stated here today.

Jackson voiced his position while commenting on reports that some countries, especially Singapore, accused Cuba of being subject to Soviet policy and wanted it to stop chairing the movement of nonaligned countries. The Guyanese minister noted that Cuba is a nonaligned country and recalled that the movement was not ideologically monolithic. Cuba began chairing the movement of nonaligned countries at its sixth meeting held in Havana in September of 1979.

JOINT FISHING PROJECT WITH LIBYA NEARLY READY

FL021615 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Feb 81 p 3

[Excerpts] Georgetown, Guyana, Friday, (CANA)--Guyana and Libya have moved closer to getting a US$5 million joint fishing company to be based here off the ground and prospects for establishing several more similar joint projects are "hopeful", Libyan charge d'affaires here, Tahere Daloub, said yesterday. The two countries have agreed fully to the terms for the fishing company and are now looking around for about four trawlers to rent, while they explore possibilities of buying their own fleet from North American and English firms, Mr Daloub said.

The Libyan diplomat said Guyana was putting up 51 percent of the working capital for the company while Libya was meeting the remainder.

The initial budget for the company was now being worked out and actual fishing, marketing and processing operations would begin as soon as trawlers could be rented by the company, he said. The joint Guyana-Libya fishing company has been established within the framework of a bilateral cooperation agreement the two countries signed in June, 1977. According to Mr Daloub, the two sides were also exploring the possibilities for establishing joint ventures in cattle farming and animal fodder production to be based in Guyana, but nothing firm had been agreed in these areas as yet.

The two countries are also discussing further, the establishment of a joint shipping company on which preliminary discussions were held in May, 1979, Mr Daloub said.

GUYANA TO GET INTEREST-FREE LOAN FROM CANADA

FL261730 Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Feb 81 p 20

[Text] A loan agreement in which Canada will provide Guyana $3.5 million Canadian (G$7.4 million) to finance the purchase of raw materials, semi-processed goods and construction materials from Canada, was signed yesterday. The loan is being provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), interest free and with a repayment period of 50 years, including a grace period of 10 years.

Minister [of] finance in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance, Cde Sallahuddin, signed on behalf of the Guyana Government, while Canadian high commissioner to Guyana, John Graham did likewise on behalf of the Canadian Government. The loan, part of Canada's on-going programme of assistance to the Guyana Government, follows the pattern of a similar loan for $3 million Canadian made in March 1979.

The goods to be imported from Canada under the loan agreement would include such items as calcium carbide, plastic resin and electrical cable, and would be sold to government and private companies in the manufacturing and construction sectors.

A source said money generated from the sale of these goods would be placed in a special account by the Guyana Government and would be used to support the local cost of other development assistance projects being carried out in Guyana.